

CAMBRIDGE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 1144
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND 21613

House Judiciary Committee

House Bill 199

Local Government Tort Claims Act – Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc.

Testimony in Support

Wednesday, March 9, 2022
Virtual Bill Hearing

Cambridge Waterfront Development, Inc. (CWDI) supports passage of House Bill 199, which will include CWDI under the Local Government Tort Claims Act (LGTC) for purposes of reducing its costs of insurance and limiting future liability exposure – given the public purpose mission of the corporate entity to relieve certain burdens of local government.

CWDI is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt economic development corporation established by the City of Cambridge (City) and Dorchester County (County) in furtherance of an intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (April 2018) to cooperatively plan, promote and oversee the redevelopment of the Cambridge waterfront. The County and City have shared equally in CWDI operational costs. The mission and intent of CWDI to transfer the property it controls within the Waterfront Planning Envelope to the private sector for redevelopment and expansion of the tax base, while saving certain portions such as the deep wharf and waterfront promenade for public access in perpetuity.

As both the City and County are Members of the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT), there is interest in exploring comprehensive liability and property coverage for CWDI as a Sponsored Public Entity pursuant to the LGIT Trust Agreement, particularly as CWDI took ownership and control of various properties within the Waterfront Planning Envelope in January 2022 and thereby has assumed more risks associated with an economic development corporation. Eligibility for Sponsored Entity Coverage via LGIT is conditioned upon the Sponsored Entity (CWDI) being included as a “local government” under the LGTC.

We thank the Dorchester County Delegation for sponsoring this timely legislation on behalf of the City, County and CWDI, and respectfully request the Committee’s favorable consideration.

Contact: Jeff Powell, Vice-President
Matt Leonard, Executive Director (matt.leonard@cwdimd.org)
Chip MacLeod, General Counsel (cmacleod@mlg-lawyers.com)