



Nick J. Mosby, *President*
Baltimore City Council

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February 8, 2022

To: **Members of the House Ways & Means Committee**
Re: **HB 310 – Baltimore City – Property Taxes – Authority to Set
Special Rates**
Position: **FAVORABLE**

Chair Atterbeary and Honorable Members of the House Ways & Means Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 310, Baltimore City – Property Taxes – Authority to Set Special Rates. If passed, this bill would give Baltimore City another tool in the toolbox to address the longstanding issues of vacant properties in our city.

Not only do these vacant properties contribute to the blight, crime, and grime than our legacy residents have lived with for decades. These vacant properties are non-performing assets that also recently led to the lost lives of several brave firefighters.

I view this bill as an opportunity to address existing inequities within our tax structure, which ultimately create deeply rooted inequities in our communities. The impact of these dire economic times is even further reason to allow Baltimore City the ability to address this issue head on and systemically by passing this critical legislation.

As the leader of the Baltimore City Council, I am intimately aware of our city's legislative needs and have prioritized policy priorities that directly address our city's 15,000 vacant properties. At the local level, the City Council is diligently working to pass the "House Baltimore" legislative package to ensure residents have the chance to buy a house they can afford, live in, and use to ultimately create generational wealth for their families. This legislative package will also help to eliminate many of the vacant houses that currently plague neighborhoods throughout Baltimore City: 3,000 of which are City-owned. HB 310 is aligned with our Council's work, the Mayor's directive, and our commitment to our city's residents.

I thank my former colleagues on the Ways & Means Committee for their attention to this bill and respectfully ask for a **favorable** report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick J. Mosby".

Nick J. Mosby
President, Baltimore City Council