



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
SENATE BILL 267 -- INCOME TAX – HEALTHY INDOOR AIR QUALITY TAX CREDIT
Senator Joanne Benson

January 26, 2022

DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

Senate Bill 267 establishes a tax credit for costs incurred from the purchase and installation of indoor air quality equipment in certain residential and commercial properties.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the economy and small businesses are still struggling from worker retention concerns, supply chain issues, depressed markets, and a host of other issues. As small business owners attempt to improve and adapt their spaces to deal with rising COVID cases and new more transmissible variants, the importance of indoor air quality equipment, enhanced ventilation systems, and improved filtration systems has never been higher.

The GBC supports Senate Bill 267 because it provides financial support to individuals and small businesses who are making efforts to improve public health and safety. This bill will allow small business owners to receive a tax credit for up to 50% of the expenses incurred during the installation of indoor air quality equipment up to \$2,000. This will incentivize small business owners to improve the air quality in their establishments, potentially decreasing the spread of COVID-19 and other airborne viruses. The bill also requires the Comptroller to publish a list of approved air quality equipment based on industry guidelines and best practices, providing assurances that state is only granting a credit for effective equipment.

This bill is consistent with two key tenets in *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth. First is **Government leadership that unites with business as a partner**. To overcome this pandemic, Maryland's public and private sectors must work in tandem to maximize the effectiveness of public health and safety policies. Senate Bill 267 also aligns with **Competitive costs of doing business**, as it prioritizes public safety while taking into account the precarious economic environment, allowing for a solution that provides the necessary protection while alleviating undo financial burdens on small businesses.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 267.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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