February 25, 2022

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary Chair, House Ways and Means Committee Room 131 House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1186 – Property Tax Credit – Elderly Individuals, Veterans, and Surviving Spouses – Alteration of Duration – SUPPORT

Dear Madam Chair:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my **SUPPORT** for **HB 1186 – Property Tax Credit – Elderly Individuals**, **Veterans**, and **Surviving Spouses – Alteration of Duration**.

As presented, this legislation would allow Baltimore City, a County, or a Municipality to extend – from the current 5 years to 10 years – the duration of a property tax credit offered by that jurisdiction to any of their respective residents who are at least age 65, a veteran or active duty member of the United States military, a surviving spouse of a veteran who has not remarried, and/or an eligible veteran with a service-connected disability (and who meet the criteria as set forth under the Maryland Property Tax Article and their respective local government Code or Charter).

Our Administration was one of the first to implement this program when it was put in place four years ago. Under this program, we have been able to provide some financial relief to a number of our senior citizens and our veterans. This year alone, 3,767 of our residents will be receiving this credit (at an average benefit of \$500). Absent this extension, however, this program will reach its current five-year limit and no longer be available for approximately 2,500 of those residents.

Your **FAVORABLE** vote on this legislation will help extend this program for those eligible citizens who clearly benefit from this tax credit. It is but a small sacrifice we can make for those who through their years of dedicated service to our Country and to our communities have given us so much more.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barry Glassman

Harford County Executive