



**WBC Community Development Corporation**

*revitalizing the communities of northwest Baltimore*

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March 2, 2023

**HB 838 – Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act - Funding**

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

The WBC Community Development Corporation urges this committee to vote a favorable report for HB 838- Housing – Community Development Fund Program Act – Funding.

HB 838 creates a permanent funding source for the Community Development Fund which was created in 2018. The funding is critical operating dollars for community-based organizations to use for affordable housing, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, housing and financial counseling, small business development, community services, and more.

We are seeking \$5 million from the Unclaimed Property Fund after usual disbursements have been made.

We The WBC Community Development Corporation, a Non-Profit 501 3 C, has been working in the communities of West Baltimore for more than seventeen (17) years. During this time we have been focused on Affordable Housing and Community Engagement for better neighborhoods. We have partnered with various Baltimore City neighborhoods, received capital dollars from both the city of Baltimore DHCD and the State of Maryland DHCD. The acquisition of operating finds has been few and far between. We have received donations from various philanthropic organizations for operations, but not sustainable funds whereby we could employ staff for more than a year at a time. Multiyear funds would permit our strategic plans for the Forest Park communities to be implemented and sustained. We operate currently with a volunteer staff and a working board of directors. It is a day-to-day struggle.

Please vote a favorable report for HB83.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Laurence F. Campbell*

Laurence F. Campbell  
Chair

Cc: Tracy A. Evans