



Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore, Inc.

March 28, 2023

Senator Guy Guzzone

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE:** House Bill 83

Honorable Senator Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

I am the Executive Director of Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore (NHS), and a resident of Baltimore City. Our organization believes that economic and social justice are a right for all people and communities. We promote this belief by removing barriers of access to homeownership, helping resident access resources to maintain their homes, and supporting communities historically impacted by systemic disinvestment. I have worked on tax sale reform supporting residents and communities for more than 10 years and currently serve as co-chair of Mayor Scott's Tax Sale Work Group identifying ways to reform and improve the tax sale system.

In our experience with tax sale one of the challenges encountered is being able to get clarity on how much is owed to redeem a property. It is sometimes difficult to get in contact with tax sale purchasers and there are significant points in the tax sale process when significant fees can be added to the cost to redeem. Requiring a response from tax sale purchasers within 5 days will ensure access to information for residents looking to retain their home.

We ask that the Committee issue a *favorable* report on HB 83 as we continue to work on ways to reform the tax sale system as a whole,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. T. Ellis".

Daniel T. Ellis  
Executive Director



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