CORY V. McCRAY

Legislative District 45

Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

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Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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Vote Yes on Senate Bill 856

Bill Title: Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Baltimore

City Infrastructure Projects

Hearing Date: March 7, 2023, Budget and Taxation Committee

Greetings Chair, Vice Chair, and all members of the Committee

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee, I speak with you today in **support** of Senate Bill 856. Senate Bill 856 focuses on the improvement of infrastructure in Baltimore City. It will authorize the Maryland State Authority to focus on specified bonds to finance acquisition design, construction, equipping, and furnishing of any portion of certain infrastructure projects. The improved infrastructure includes water lines, roads, bridges, open space, and broadband connectivity.

In approving Senate Bill 856, it is imperative to provide a financing plan to certain committees of the General Assembly before seeking approval from the Board of Public Works on specified projects. There shall be a written request for financing and construction management services from Baltimore City. The request shall incorporate the following points:

- The location of the proposed Baltimore city infrastructure project.
- The amount, source, and timing of funding, not including authority bonds that may be issued to finance the Baltimore City Infrastructure project.
- A description of the anticipated use of the proposed infrastructure project.

Senate bill 856 will implement the use of the Baltimore City Infrastructure Projects Financing Fund. This fund shall include the annual budget of \$58,000,000 provided by the Governor to the city. The State treasurer shall invest money to the fund in the same manner as other state funds. No part of this fund shall revert or be created to the general fund or any special fund of the state.

In following the guidelines written in Senate Bill 856, the community will have improved infrastructure. Enhancing the appearance and quality of our city will be beneficial to all. For these reasons, I humbly ask for your support in approving Senate Bill 856.

Respectfully,

Cory V. McCray

State Senator