



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

February 21, 2023

Hon. Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, 6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: HB852 FAVORABLE

Chairperson Barve,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT of HB852**— a piece of legislation that has the opportunity to support and invest in our state's history and communities.

Preservation Maryland is the statewide voice for historic preservation that works to protect the best of Maryland. Since 1931, we have worked tirelessly to protect the places, stories, and communities in Maryland that matter. (Learn more at: presmd.org)

Preservation Maryland is supportive of the bill which has the potential to positively impact historic congregations and address the critical need for affordable housing across the state. Providing sustainable revenue streams for historic congregations is critical to the future of preserving these sacred places. This legislation does that while addressing the state's dire need for affordable housing. Which is a priority to the preservation and smart growth community, where infill and use of underutilized urban spaces (parking lots, etc.) are viewed as a way to holistically address the issue.

HB852 is an innovative way of providing revenue streams to historic congregations and addressing the state's dire need for affordable housing. Therefore, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB852.

Favorable

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO