



HB 501
Environment and Transportation Committee
February 21, 2023
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

The Community Development Network of Maryland (CDN) is the voice for Maryland's community development sector and serves nearly 200 member organizations. CDN—focuses on small affordable housing developers, housing counseling agencies and community-based non-profits across the state of Maryland. The mission of CDN is to promote, strengthen and advocate for the community development sector throughout Maryland's urban, suburban and rural communities. CDN envisions a state in which all neighborhoods are thriving and where people of all incomes have abundant opportunities for themselves and their families.

HB 501 establishes the Revitalizing Neighborhoods Through Homeownership Program to provide financial assistance in the form of loans to political subdivisions to support the purchase and renovation HUD dollar homes and abandoned residential properties for resale to low-to moderate-income buyers; establishing the Revitalizing Neighborhoods Through Homeownership Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide financial assistance in the form of loans under the provisions of the Revitalizing Neighborhoods Through Homeownership Program; etc.

According to the Maryland Housing Needs Assessment that was completed in 2021 by the National Center for Smart Growth and Enterprise Community Partners, Maryland will have to make a significant investment in housing over the next 10 years in order to keep up with economic and demographic shifts in the state. The.

The need has only grown worse during the last two years of the pandemic as households making less than \$60,000 struggle to find homes in every region of the state. These are predominantly black and brown essential workers as well as disabled and older adults in Maryland. The state will need to explore strategies to increase the supply of affordable homes in every area.

Communities throughout the state urgently need new construction in order to transform and invigorate long stagnant markets for homeownership. In the last three years, program investments have cleared land for significant investments. There is space for new customizable homes for city residents. The tax credit is a benefit that small and large developers can pass along to city residents.

We urge your favorable support for HB501.

Submitted by Claudia Wilson Randall, Executive Director