

February 21, 2023

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB0765 – Property and Income Taxes – Credits for Construction and Purchase of Housing in Western Maryland

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary:

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges your **support of HB0765 – Property and Income Taxes – Credits for Construction and Purchase of Housing in Western Maryland.**


Housing in Allegany County is no longer meeting the needs of middle-income households. Generational homes prove to be too large, outdated and require tremendous work to make suitable for living with today's accommodations. Incentivizing the construction of multiple middle-income homes with tax credits specific to western Maryland would help to address this challenge.

Those who choose to live here find it necessary to completely renovate existing homes, not to modernize, but to meet basic, current standards of living. We know that employers in western Maryland find it difficult to attract employees due to our limited suitable housing stock. These are employers such as UPMC-Western MD, IBM, and Northrop Grumman. Existing residents who wish to find a more suitable home include teachers, nurses, law enforcement, and advanced manufacturers. Western Maryland is also a beautiful place for retirement, but these same issues related to housing are not something a retiree wishes to face when selecting a home.

We find ourselves able to offer so much to those who choose to live here and invest in starting businesses, creating jobs, and raising families, but without quality housing that works for today, we will continue to lose middle-income households, which are vital to the tax base of our county and state.

Thank you for considering a **favorable report for HB0765.**

Sincerely,



Jeremy G. Irons
Legislative Committee Chairman



Juli R. McCoy
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
House Ways and Means Committee Members
Allegany County Delegation