



Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
House Ways & Means Committee
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

***Re: SB 563/HB780: Tax Sales – Property Maintenance & Nuisance Condition Violation
Judgments & Foreclosure Proceedings – SUPPORT w/ Amendments***

SB518/HB779: Tax Sales – Revisions – SUPPORT w/ Amendments

March 10, 2023

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Chairwoman Atterbeary:

On behalf of our municipalities and the citizens we proudly represent, we would like to, jointly, extend our gratitude to you and your committee members for the opportunity to testify in support of SB563/HB 780, entitled: *Tax Sales – Property Maintenance & Nuisance Condition Violation Judgments & Foreclosure Proceedings* and SB518/HB779, entitled: *Tax Sales – Revisions* during last week's bill hearings.

We reaffirm the remarks held by our City Solicitor, Administrator, and by Senator Corderman and Delegate Buckel regarding the importance and positive impacts these bills would have for our historic cities, if enacted.

Absent and abandoned properties are plaguing our cities and to combat these increasing issues of blight, we firmly believe that legislative policies contained in SB518/HB779 and SB563/HB780 will help us in our efforts.

Over the last week, we have worked closely with committee staff, various interested stakeholders, and, the Maryland Municipal League (MML), and Maryland's State Department of Assessment & Taxation (SDAT), on various amendments to address their satisfy and/or concerns. We're pleased to

report that the amendments, submitted by the House and Senate sponsors, are acceptable by all parties.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your committees to support the successful passage of these bills. We urge for a **FAVORABLE** report to SB518/HB779 and SB563/HB780 (as amended).

Sincerely,



Raymond Morriss
Mayor
City of Cumberland



Tekesha Martinez
Mayor
City of Hagerstown



Bob Flanigan
Mayor
City of Frostburg

cc.

Senator Paul Corderman
Delegate Jason Buckel