



**Senate Bill 0896 - Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority Task Force  
Hearing of the Senate  
February 27, 2024  
Position: FAVORABLE**

Senate President Ferguson and distinguished members of the Senate,

Please be advised that the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) supports Senate Bill 0896 and the creation of a task force to govern a study and make recommendations on the revitalization of the Baltimore Convention Center (BCC) site.

The Baltimore Convention Center has historically been an economic anchor of Downtown Baltimore, with the past decade seeing an average return on investment of \$4.3 in revenue for every dollar invested. However, aging and outdated infrastructure thwarts BCC's ability to compete with other convention centers and maximize revenue for the City of Baltimore.

Investment in the Baltimore Convention Center complements the many ongoing redevelopment projects Downtown, including Lexington Market, CFG Bank Arena, both stadiums and Harborplace. A revitalized downtown does not happen without a modernized convention center.

We respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 0896.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Tarbert", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Colin Tarbert  
President & CEO

CC: Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations