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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Delegate Marlon Amprey in Support of House Bill 1427

Economic Development - West North Avenue Development Authority - Alterations

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 1427, which proposes alterations to the West North Avenue Development Authority. This bill aims to enhance economic development in the West North Avenue corridor of Baltimore City by restructuring the administration and membership of the Authority, delineating its powers and duties, and establishing important financial mechanisms.

The proposed alterations outlined in House Bill 1427 are critical for revitalizing communities along the West North Avenue corridor and promoting economic development. The bill acknowledges the longstanding need for residential and commercial development in the area, addressing issues of blight and deterioration while fostering public benefits such as job creation, commerce growth, and improved quality of life for residents.

These updates and recommendations come from the Assistant Attorney General's review of the authorities that other quasi-state economic development agencies have, which include but are not limited to:

- Updating various terms and definitions of the Authority and Board
- Creating a new Fund
- Giving broader authority that mirrors other economic development agencies reviewed are the Stadium Authority and Maryland Economic Development Authority.

Furthermore, House Bill 1427 ensures accountability and transparency in the Authority's operations by subjecting it to relevant laws and regulations, including those governing financial management, taxation, and public ethics.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to support House Bill 1427 as a crucial step towards fostering economic growth and revitalization in Baltimore City's West North Avenue corridor. The proposed alterations will empower the Authority to effectively address the area's development needs, leading to positive outcomes for both residents and businesses.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote favorably on HB1427.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlon Amprey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a distinct "A".

Delegate Marlon Amprey
40th Legislative District of Maryland