



February 5, 2025

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Budget and Taxation Committee
West-Miller Senate Building, Room 3
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support for Senate Bill 409 - Economic Development - County or Municipal Corporation Economic Development Authority - Powers and Use of Proceeds

Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Distinguished Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

Anne Arundel County requests a FAVORABLE REPORT on Senate Bill 409.

I am pleased to offer this letter in support of Senate Bill 409, which provides an important tool to advance revitalization efforts such as housing, infrastructure and place-based investment in underinvested communities.

Senate Bill 409 modernizes state statute by allowing jurisdictions to rename Industrial Development Authorities (IDAs) as Redevelopment Authorities (RDAs) or adopt a name of their choosing. It also expands the permissible uses of IDA funds to support broader redevelopment and revitalization efforts.

Redevelopment Authorities provide a number of benefits to counties, such as Anne Arundel, that seek to revitalize specific areas based on community need. They provide:

Tailored solutions for local needs

- They can focus on unique challenges and opportunities within a specific area of a community.

Expertise and leadership focused on revitalization efforts:

- A Redevelopment Authority provides a dedicated entity to spearhead redevelopment initiatives, ensuring sustained focus on community revitalization and economic growth.

- It acts as a centralized organization to coordinate projects, engage stakeholders, and align efforts with legislative goals.

Enhanced Access to Funding and Resources

- Redevelopment Authorities can unlock funding opportunities unavailable to other entities, such as grants, bonds, and tax increment financing (TIF).
- This legislation allows for Redevelopment Authorities to access and leverage private funding to maximize financial and resource impact for redevelopment projects

Catalyst for Broader Community Transformation

- Redevelopment Authorities often spark further investment and improvement beyond their direct projects, creating a ripple effect of revitalization throughout the area.

The authority granted under this Bill provides local governments with additional tools to better fund, facilitate, and grow the diverse redevelopment and revitalization efforts that are essential to sustaining, transforming, and strengthening our communities most in need. I respectfully request your support in enabling this local tool.

Sincerely,



Steuart Pittman
County Executive
Anne Arundel County