

# **The Harriet Tubman Community Testimony in Support of Maryland SB0469**

## **Investment Act**

**Tonet Cuffee**  
**313 Pine Street**  
**Hurlock MD 21613**

RELATIVE OF HARRIET TUBMAN

**2/17/2025**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Tonet Cuffee, and I am proud to be a descendant of Harriet Tubman from Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for SB0469, also known as the Harriet Tubman Community Investment Act. This bill presents a crucial opportunity to address longstanding disparities and promote economic growth in historically marginalized communities throughout our state.

As a relative of Harriet Tubman and a Marylander, I have personally witnessed the impact of systemic disinvestment on communities like mine. It is imperative that we rally behind this legislation to make a positive change.

The Underground Railroad is still being built today, which is why my family and I stand in solidarity with SB0469. The Eastern Shore of Maryland has a rich history intertwined with the struggles and triumphs of Black Marylanders, particularly in the realms of economic self-sufficiency and community resilience. Harriet Tubman's legacy serves as a beacon of liberation and empowerment, reminding us of our duty to invest in communities that have long been deprived of essential resources.

SB0469 pays homage to Harriet Tubman by allocating much-needed funds to minority-owned businesses, affordable housing projects, and infrastructure enhancements in underserved areas. This bill is a step towards rectifying the economic disparities that have plagued marginalized communities for far too long.

A key advantage of SB0469 is its focus on promoting equity and leveling the economic playing field for marginalized communities. The Eastern Shore of Maryland, like many other regions in our state, continues to face challenges in accessing capital for Black- and minority-owned businesses and nonprofits. By implementing targeted investments, this bill will empower small business owners, create job opportunities, and stimulate local economic growth in areas that have historically been neglected by mainstream financial institutions.

Moreover, SB0469 will be another major milestone met on the Underground Railroad. Please support.

**Sincerely,**

Tonet Cuffee