



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

February 20, 2025

Hon. Brian J. Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: SB0436 FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Chairperson Feldman,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT of SB0436**— a piece of legislation that would require the Maryland Department of Labor to study building code requirements for single-staircase buildings in Maryland and that of other states and analyze best practices when drafting building code requirements.

Preservation Maryland is the nonprofit, statewide voice for historic preservation that harnesses the power of historic places by revitalizing and reinvesting in communities, advocating, and building the historic trades workforce for the benefit of all Marylanders. (Learn more at: presmd.org)

We are supportive of this legislation as we believe it will pave the way for updated building code requirements for single-staircase buildings in Maryland. These structures, which are disproportionately historic in age, could provide a source of affordable housing if updates to the building code are made, consistent with the highest levels of life safety.

RE: Amendments Request: We and our partners at the *Downtown Frederick Partnership* provided friendly amendments that we ask to be considered. These would 1) add a requirement to consult with the state fire marshal, 2) require the study to include recommendations on potential incentives to support fire suppression systems, 3) and add a representative of the preservation and main street communities on the list to be consulted.

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO