



Testimony on HB 503 (MGA 2025)

Land Use - Regional Housing Infrastructure Gap
(Housing for Jobs Act)

Position: FAV

March 4, 2025

To Chair Korman and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee:

My name is Ricarra Jones, and I am the Political Director with 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the nation, representing over 400,000 workers across the East Coast with 10,000 members in Maryland and Washington, DC.

We urge the passage of The Housing for Jobs Act. When individuals and families can afford housing, everyone in the community benefits. Tangible benefits include healthy outcomes and secure child development. Families thrive from the security provided when their homes and jobs are in the same community and communities become more secure when families are able to participate and contribute.

Through no fault of their own, our members often cannot find jobs near their residences and they cannot find homes near where they work. This either restricts employment opportunities all together or requires Marylanders to face lengthy commutes, high home costs, and inability to participate in children's schooling.

We applaud the changes The Housing for Jobs Act would bring: in regions where the jobs-housing ratio is too high – meaning more homes are needed – the Act would limit the local subdivision's ability to deny new housing proposals until it filled the gap.

SEIU 1199 supports the passage of HB 503 because our members should not have to bear the financial and emotional costs of a housing crisis that has left many of our most vulnerable citizens at its mercy.

We support HB 503 and urge a favorable report.

Respectfully,
Ricarra Jones
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