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To: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Re: HB 503: Land Use - Regional Housing Infrastructure Gap (Housing for Jobs Act)
Position: Favorable with Amendments
Date: March 4, 2025

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Governor Moore for the introduction of this priority legislation focused on filling gaps in our state's housing infrastructure. A strong supply of housing is vital to the realization of Baltimore's goals: population growth, increased public safety, and economic revitalization in our most disinvested neighborhoods. As I have said many times: this is Baltimore's moment.

Despite some innovation and progress, Baltimore City must scale efforts to grow our housing stock. As we work to attract ever more qualified workers to our City, we want to ensure that Baltimore is a great place to live just as much as it is a great place to work. This necessitates that housing is affordable—no more than 30% of one's income.

However, in many neighborhoods, the demand simply exceeds supply. In some predominantly low-income and Black neighborhoods, like Oliver and Greater Rosemont, Baltimoreans have to allocate more than half of their income to rent, underscoring how affordability is a complicating factor that exacerbates the supply crisis.

As of the testimony submission deadline for this bill hearing, there is no fiscal and policy note from the Department of Legislative Services available to aid in understanding the scope of potential impact for this legislation. I urge the committee to consider amendments that will support Baltimore's efforts to increase our population, bn decrease the preponderance of vacant homes and increase affordability and safety.

For all the reasons above, **I urge the committee to issue a favorable with amendments report on House Bill 503.**

For additional information, email
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The Baltimore City Council is a collaborative body dedicated to delivering reliable, equitable, and sustainable results, which enhance the quality of life for all Baltimoreans. Through agency oversight, legislation, fiscal stewardship, and advocacy, we ensure the City gets the 'basics' right, while also striving toward long-term, systems-level transformation.