



Written Testimony on House Bill 503
February 27, 2025

Mr. Marc Korman, Chair
Ms. Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Committee Members,

Little Deeds is a proud member of YIMBY Maryland, an active state-wide chapter of YIMBY Action, a national network of people who advocate for abundant, affordable housing and inclusive, sustainable communities across the United States.

Our company, Little Deeds, works daily with those who are housing challenged with accessibility and affordability and do all we can to help them age in place and modify homes for those with disabilities.

Our YIMBY chapter is entirely run by volunteers who are proud Marylanders. We're a mix of long-time residents and newcomers, renters and homeowners, business owners and employees, families and individuals, citizens and immigrants, commuters, bus riders, cyclists, and pedestrians.

Our chapter members, like Little Deeds, are part of YIMBY Maryland because we see friends, family, and coworkers priced out of our area. We want Maryland to have affordable and inclusive communities where people can thrive. We can make Maryland a state with homes for all.

YIMBY Maryland strongly supports the Administration's "Housing for Jobs Act" (HB503).

This legislation will spur much-needed home building for all Marylanders, especially for the 1 in 3 residents who are cost burdened by their rent or mortgage.

The underlying reason for the State's unaffordability crisis is the lack of supply of homes near jobs. Based on 2022 data, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development estimates that the Baltimore Region is almost 90,000 homes short of having what is considered an economically healthy ratio of 1.5 jobs to 1 housing unit.

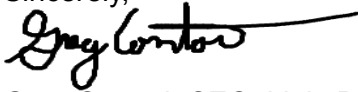
To help meet the State's, our Region's and our County's housing infrastructure challenges, Little Deeds supports HB503's foundational basis that local jurisdictions have an obligation to approve new housing units unless there is a reason for denial that outweighs the community's need for housing.

The legislation's enhanced reduction incentive will be of significant value in helping our State build an adequate supply of affordable units to meet the demand for safe, subsidized housing for low and moderate-income households.

The housing generated by this bill will be an important step in creating a more affordable and financially stronger Maryland. Significant numbers of new housing units will help drive down rental and homeownership costs for residents, which should, in turn, generate an expanded economic base of new businesses and jobs.

Little Deeds requests that the Education, Energy and Environment Committee issue a favorable report on HB503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Cantori". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Greg Cantori, CEO, Little Deeds -

We Do The Little Things That Make A BiG Difference