



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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HB 80 - Land Use - Transit-Oriented Development - Alterations House Environment and Transportation Committee January 30, 2025

SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS

Donna S. Edwards

President

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairwoman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 80 if amended. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

HB 80 authorizes the Department of Transportation to establish transit-oriented development (TOD) corridor funds to collect revenues from county special taxing districts. Among other functions, these funds are intended to support "financing activities," which undoubtedly include the construction and implementation of TOD projects.

While we support the intent of the bill as it promotes sustainable growth through the development of transit-oriented communities, it is crucial that we ensure that these TOD projects financed through county special taxing districts create family-supporting jobs for the workers who build them. To address this, we propose an amendment that requires that the payment of prevailing wages apply to TOD corridor funds used to pay for the construction of transit-oriented development.

Given that the revenue being collected is county money, TOD projects funded through the corridor funds should follow the same standards of fairness as other county-funded projects. Attaching a prevailing wage requirement ensures that the benefits of TOD projects extend to the well-being of the workers who build these developments.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on HB 80 if amended.