



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

March 5, 2025

Hon. Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: HB1327 FAVORABLE

Chairperson Korman,

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 HB1327** – a piece of legislation that would increase allowable funding levels for the Maryland Heritage Area Authority (MHAA) as well as increase the size of grants awarded by the program.

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)

The MHAA is a critical component of the state's economic engine. In addition to generating nearly \$2 billion in economic activity and supporting nearly 33,000 full- and part-time positions, the program also serves as the principal heritage tourism effort for Maryland. In short, the success of MHAA is intrinsically tied to the success of the state – *especially in difficult economic situations*.

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, this legislation does not mandate an appropriation but instead gives the administration *discretion* to fund up to \$9 million – thereby negating concerns about budget implications in the short term. Therefore, we believe HB1327 is a thoughtful and timely piece of legislation, and we urge a favorable report.

Favorable

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO