

Testimony
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
HB0503
Land Use - Regional Housing Infrastructure Gap (Housing for Jobs Act)
Position: Support
FEBRUARY 28, 2025

Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake is the leading provider of affordable homeownership opportunities in Central Maryland. Since our founding 43 years ago, we have built or renovated over 800 homes in 26 communities across Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel and Howard counties. This year, we are in active construction or pre-development in several neighborhoods in Baltimore, as well as on projects in Severn and Colombia. These include both new construction and intensive rehabilitation of long-vacant homes.

We support the goals of the Housing for Jobs Act, recognizing that it brings strategic attention and goals for removing obstacles for working individuals and families to have home be nearer to work, a key factor in overall quality of life. We applaud the chance to have more homeownership units in these efforts, and invite the chance for those to include homeownership affordability.

Increasing housing supply is a key priority for the state, and a key concern for Habitat for Humanity across its network. Please support this proposal to increase housing supply in key areas within the State.

Sincerely,

Leila Kohler-Frueh