SB 672 - FAV - MHLA.pdf Uploaded by: Amy Rohrer Position: FAV



Testimony in Support of SB 672

Economic Development - Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority - Established Senate Finance Committee – February 20, 2025

The Maryland Hotel Lodging Association (MHLA) serves as the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland's 750+ hotels. Our industry employs more than 27,000 individuals and provides the state with \$2.4 billion in state and local taxes, \$7.2 billion in total wages and salaries, and \$10.6 billion in spending by hotel guests contributing to Maryland's economy.

Last year, MHLA was pleased to appoint a hotel representative to serve on the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority Task Force. In its final report, this task force recommended the establishment of a joint authority to govern the Baltimore Convention site and Visit Baltimore. We support the legislation before you, as it would establish the make-up and authority of the "Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority."

We believe this authority will bring structure to plans surrounding future convention center operations, maintenance and funding as well as the marketing of Baltimore City as a convention destination. The growth of Maryland's lodging industry, especially in Baltimore City and outlying regions, is closely tied to future convention center bookings. We are hopeful that the establishment of this authority will maximize the Baltimore Convention Center's future impact on our industry and our state.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 672.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Rohrer, President & CEO

SB 672_Convention and Tourism Operating Authority_ Uploaded by: Jennifer LaHatte

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor Harry Coker, Jr. | Acting Secretary of Commerce

DATE:	February 20, 2025
BILL NO:	Senate Bill 672
BILL TITLE:	Economic Development - Baltimore Convention and Tourism
	Redevelopment and Operating Authority - Established
COMMITTEE:	Sente Finance
POSITION:	Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports Senate Bill 672 - Economic Development - Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority - Established

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 672 establishes the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority (Authority) as a body politic and corporate and an instrumentality of the State. The role of the Authority is to govern the renovation, revitalization, and ongoing maintenance and operations of the Baltimore Convention Center site and the marketing of Baltimore City as a tourist destination.

Background:

Chapter 635, Acts of 2023 established the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority Task Force (Task Force) to study and make recommendations regarding an entity or strategy to govern the renovation, revitalization, financing, and ongoing maintenance and management of the Baltimore Convention Center site and certain surrounding areas. The Chair of the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Board served as Chair of the Task Force and Commerce provided staffing support. The Task Force held several meetings in the second half of 2024 and submitted its final report in January 2025 with the following recommendations:

- Governance: Establishment of a Joint Authority to govern Convention Center and Tourism Board operations, effectively merging Visit Baltimore and the Baltimore Convention Center under a new governance model;
- Ownership and Improvements Financing: State and City partnership on Convention Center improvements such that the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City retain ownership of the Baltimore City Convention Center, and, in exchange for primarily or exclusively State-bonded improvements, the State of Maryland would receive a lienholder interest while the debt is outstanding;
- Operational Sustainability: The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City establish a direct revenue stream to the Authority that allows the Authority to meet its annual operating and capital needs.

Rationale:

Tourism is one of the State's top economic drivers, and for that reason Commerce, through the Maryland Office of Tourism, is focused on continuing to promote our great state as a travel

destination to visitors both domestically and abroad. In calendar year 2023, visitors to Maryland spent over \$20.5 billion, generating more than \$2.4 billion in state and local tax revenue. Investing in tourism brings a high return to our State, counties, and municipalities.

The Baltimore Convention Center and the area surrounding it should be one of the drivers of tourism activity and spending in Baltimore and the State as a whole, but redevelopment and revitalization are necessary for Baltimore to be successful in attracting major conferences to the city. The Task Force evaluated successful models from other states and cities and made well-informed and researched recommendations to replicate these successes in the Baltimore region. Senate Bill 672 would implement the governance recommendation of the Task Force – a critical step in redeveloping the Baltimore Convention Center and its surrounding areas. This model was recommended by the Task Force because effectively merging Visit Baltimore and the Baltimore Convention Center ensures long term sustainability, a unified vision, and shared resources to better accomplish the shared goals of the two entities.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 672.

SB672 - Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelop

Uploaded by: Kristen Pironis Position: FAV



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 672 Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority

To: Senator Pam Beidle Chair, Finance Committee

Written testimony from:Kristen PironisExecutive Director, Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County26 West StreetAnnapolis, MD 21401410-280-0445 / kp@visitannapolis.org

Date: February 18, 2025

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and the Finance Committee:

I am writing to express strong <u>support</u> for Senate Bill 672, which establishes the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority. This bill is a crucial step in strengthening Baltimore City's position as a key destination within Maryland's broader regional tourism strategy.

At Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, we understand the profound economic impact of tourism—not only in terms of revenue generation but also in enhancing the well-being of residents and visitors alike. Our efforts in promoting the destination go beyond advertising; we focus on creating a positive experience that meets and exceeds visitor expectations. This includes the operational aspects of Destination Marketing and Management Organizations (DMOs) that ensure our communities are prepared for tourism in a sustainable way, tackling challenges such as parking, transportation, safety, and workforce development.

DMOs, like Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, exemplify how destination marketing and management collaborate across regions to create a welcoming and prosperous tourism ecosystem. By focusing on inclusive strategies that address accessibility, mobility, and community engagement, these organizations ensure that when visitors arrive, they encounter an experience that exceeds expectations and enhances regional appeal. This mirrors the intent of the legislation for the convention center, ensuring that the city's tourism infrastructure is prepared to meet growing demand while supporting regional collaboration.

Maryland's strength lies in its diversity, and while we focus on our county, we recognize the strength of our region and state as a whole. There are 25 DMOs across Maryland, encompassing all counties as well as Baltimore City and Ocean City. This interconnected approach fosters collaborative efforts that strengthen each community's ability to grow and thrive together. These partnerships drive local economic development and make the region even more attractive to visitors and business, including meetings and conventions.

This bill aligns directly with these goals, ensuring that Baltimore's tourism infrastructure receives the attention and resources it requires while promoting our entire region. Investment in Baltimore through the Authority will benefit surrounding areas, including Anne Arundel County and, specifically, the BWI corridor. It is essential that we focus not only on the City but also on the broader regional context in which it exists. The bill's establishment of a new governing body provides the necessary structure to support sustained growth, effective destination management, and a commitment to enhancing the quality of life for both residents and visitors.



I strongly encourage your support for this bill and look forward to seeing the positive outcomes it will bring for Maryland's tourism industry. Please let me know if I—or my organization—can help in this critical decision and process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristen Pironis Executive Director Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

BCC SB 672 Committee Testimony - Copy.pdf Uploaded by: Mac Campbell

Position: FAV



February 20, 2025

Chairwoman Beidle Miller Senate Office Building, Finance Committee 3 East Miller Senate Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401

Good morning, Chairwoman Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 672. My name is Mac Campbell, and I am proud to serve as the Executive Director of the Baltimore Convention Center (BCC).

Historically, the Baltimore Convention Center has been a strong investment, generating nearly \$30 million in state tax revenue and \$12.6 million for the city annually—over \$440 million in tax revenue over a decade—while supporting thousands of jobs, many belonging to City residents. But today, I stand before you with both urgency and optimism—because while the BCC remains an asset to our city and state, it is at a crossroads.

Since reopening after serving as a COVID-19 field hospital, we've faced greater challenges—fewer conventions, rising operational costs, and increased competition from cities with newer, better-equipped facilities. In FY23, we generated just \$17 million in combined state and city taxes as major events went elsewhere.

Meanwhile, convention centers of our size receive \$5–8 million annually for upkeep. The BCC has received just \$400,000 since its last renovation in 1996—never adjusted for inflation. Our team works tirelessly to keep the doors open, but we are literally holding the building together with patch kits and glue.

The reality is, we are falling behind. Yet, there is so much potential. We know that with the right investment, Baltimore can compete—and win. We saw that firsthand when we secured the 2033 ASAE Annual Meeting, one of the most prestigious conventions in our industry. To put what this win means into perspective, the average immediate economic impact of the ASAE Annual Meeting & Exposition is between \$15-18 million over four days, with the annual meeting host cities reliably expecting 20% of attendees to book future business in the host city within 5 years. That win puts money in the pockets of our residents and proves that people want to come to Baltimore. They believe in our city. But we must give them a facility that meets modern expectations.

Senate Bill 672 is not the final answer, but it is the next step. It creates the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority, providing the structure needed to move forward strategically and sustainably. For years, the Convention Center delivered a 4:1 return on investment for the state—an impact driven by Baltimore's unique funding model, where the city does not collect sales tax, allowing the state to see the greatest financial benefit. While that ratio hasn't held since COVID, we know it can again—if we can close more business and remain competitive. This bill lays the foundation to turn that vision into reality—one that will benefit Marylanders across the state, from Baltimore's District 40 with Senator Hayes, who sat on the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority Task Force, to down the road in Anne Arundel County District 32 with Chairwoman Beidle, and all the way to Senator Mautz's constituents in Wicomico County.



We also know that our success is built on the people who work inside the BCC every day. Many of our union workers are Baltimore City residents, and they take immense pride in making this facility run at the highest level despite its challenges. We owe it to them to provide the tools and the environment they need to succeed, and we are committed to ensuring their place in our future.

I urge you to not just take my word for it. Come visit the BCC. See for yourself what we're up against and what is possible. I have also provided photos that document the state of our building—real incidents that have taken place during real events—because this is not just about numbers; it's about ensuring that each of you know what is standing in the way of Baltimore remaining competitive for years to come. Its also about recognizing the work and dedication of the men and women who keep our building going, and who are upholding the reputation of the BCC, and Maryland, despite the corroded pipes and flooded lobbies. A fresh coat of paint won't fix a crumbling foundation—real change requires rebuilding from the ground up, and with your support, this authority model can be that newly poured foundation.

An investment in the BCC is an investment in Maryland's future—one that creates jobs, strengthens businesses, and drives tourism spending statewide. Senate Bill 672 is the next critical step in making that future a reality. I respectfully urge you to support this legislation, and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alla forgrad

Mac Campbell Executive Director Baltimore Convention Center

SB 672 - National Aquarium - Support.pdf Uploaded by: Maggie Ostdahl

Position: FAV



Date: February 20, 2025

Bill: SB 672 - Economic Development - Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority – Established

Position: Support

Dear Chair Biedle, Vice-Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 672, which would establish the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment Operating Authority to govern the renovation, revitalization, and ongoing maintenance and operations of the Baltimore Convention Center site and the marketing of Baltimore City as a tourist destination. The legislation adopts recommendations by the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority Task Force. If passed, the bill would effectively merge the Baltimore Convention Center and Visit Baltimore to improve long term planning and stability.

Annually, the National Aquarium generates \$430 million in economic activity, \$36 million in state/local tax revenue, and supports 3,400 jobs statewide. The impact of the National Aquarium is supported by and tied to the success of the Baltimore Convention Center and Visit Baltimore. The National Aquarium welcomes 1.2 million visitors each year and we partner with Visit Baltimore to attract more tourism to the city. We also offer promotional rates to Convention Center attendees, and we benefit from conventions utilizing the National Aquarium for special events. A thriving Baltimore Convention Center and Visit Baltimore benefits the National Aquarium and the entire downtown community.

Like other attractions along the Inner Harbor, the Baltimore Convention Center is faced with millions of dollars in deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs. The proposed Operating Authority will be tasked with carrying out renovations and recommending necessary funding streams to ensure the Baltimore Convention Center can compete for and meet the needs of modern conventions. The Operating Authority will be comprised of the appropriate expertise and authority to meaningfully address these long-term infrastructure needs.

Including the governance of Visit Baltimore under the Operating Authority aligns with best practices seen in other jurisdictions. The combined governance model will allow for easier communication, effective planning, operational efficiencies, and alleviate administrative burdens.

The future of downtown Baltimore is crucial to the state's economy. As the city, state, and private sector invest in the revitalization of downtown, anchor institutions like the Baltimore Convention Center will continue to play a key role in driving success and economic growth. We urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 672.

<u>Contact</u>: **Ryan Fredriksson** Vice President, Government Affairs 410-385-8276 rfredriksson@aqua.org

SB672 - MTC Testimony.pdf Uploaded by: Matt Libber Position: FAV



February 18, 2025

Maryland Senate The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair 3 East Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support of SB672 - Income Tax - Economic Development - Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority – Established

Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the Committee,

My name is Matt Libber, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC). I am writing to you today to express MTC's support for Senate Bill 672. The Maryland Tourism Coalition is a trade organization with members representing all areas of tourism in the State of Maryland. Our mission is to support businesses and organizations that cater to the tourism industry through education, networking, and advocacy. As such, MTC asks the committee for a favorable report.

MTC had the privilege of working on the taskforce that was established during the 2024 Legislative Session. Tourism is a major component of Maryland's economy, bringing in \$20.4 billion in direct spending and \$2.5 billion of tax revenue generated. With the impending redevelopment of Harborplace, significant investment in our sports stadiums and the Arena, downtown Baltimore is on the cusp of a renaissance. Our city has the potential to be a top convention destination. A well run and updated Baltimore Convention Center could be a core piece in increasing that economic impact. The convention space is a highly competitive space and Baltimore is currently losing out to big conferences and events that draw tens of thousands of visitors to the city. The last major renovation of the Baltimore Convention Center has not had a major renovations or expansion since the mid-1990s, over thirty years ago. In the meantime, new convention centers have been constructed, and others have been updated with new amenities and spaces that are more attractive to conferences, convention Center inline with how other convention centers around the country operate. This is by no means the final answer to this issue, but it is a necessary first step in the process.

Due to the unique funding structure of the Baltimore City, the State of Maryland generates great financial benefits of a successful convention center as Baltimore City does not retain its share of sales tax. This means that all of the State benefits not just Baltimore City and the surrounding Counties. This governance model changes will allow the Baltimore Conventions Center to start the process of addressing the backlog of deferred maintenance and the much needed updates that the building so desperately needs to remain competitive in the market.



We respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 672.

Respectfully submitted,

Mothew B Litter

Matt Libber Legislative Chair Maryland Tourism Coalition <u>mlibber@mdsoccerplex.org</u> 301-528-1480

SB672-FIN-FAV.pdf Uploaded by: Nina Themelis Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT MAYOR

Office of Government Relations 88 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 20, 2025

TO:Members of the Senate Finance CommitteeFROM:Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government RelationsRE:Senate Bill 672 - Economic Development - Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and
Operating Authority - Established

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) <u>supports</u> Senate Bill (SB) 672.

SB 672 would establish the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority. This legislation represents a crucial step forward in revitalizing Baltimore's convention and tourism sector, building on the thorough work and recommendations of the task force established by the General Assembly in 2024.

The timing of this legislation could not be more critical. Baltimore is experiencing unprecedented momentum, with over \$6.5 billion in investment planned within a one-mile radius of downtown, including the transformative redevelopment of Harborplace. However, our convention center is a vital economic engine that requires immediate attention and structural reform to reach its full potential.

The Baltimore Convention Center generates over \$225 million in annual economic impact and supports more than 1,600 jobs across Maryland. Nearly \$60 million of this impact extends beyond Baltimore City's borders, benefiting BWI Airport, surrounding counties, and generating over \$12 million in annual state tax revenue. However, this critical asset faces over \$110 million in deferred maintenance, with many systems operating at 60-70% capacity. Without structural change, we risk watching this economic engine continue to decline.

The proposed Authority addresses these challenges through three interconnected solutions that emerged from the task force's comprehensive study:

- 1. It creates a unified governance structure that brings together convention center operations and tourism marketing under one roof, allowing for coordinated strategy and improved operational efficiency. The legislation carefully balances representation from state and local government, labor, industry experts, and key stakeholders.
- 2. It establishes a framework for state and city partnership on convention center improvements while preserving city ownership a model that has proven successful in other contexts.
- 3. It provides the Authority with the tools and flexibility needed to operate in the highly competitive convention market, freed from constraints that have limited its effectiveness.

The task force found that a renovated and properly managed convention center could drive more than 70% increases in economic impact, tax revenues, jobs, and wages. The structure proposed in this legislation reflects best practices from successful convention markets across the country. It has been carefully crafted to ensure proper oversight and accountability while providing the operational flexibility needed to compete effectively.

For the above reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 672.

SB672

SB 0672 - Support - Feb 2025.pdf Uploaded by: Vanessa A. Finney

Position: FAV



February 18, 2025

Senate Bill 0672 – Economic Development – Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority – Established

Committee: Finance

Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) Position: Support

The Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) wholeheartedly supports HB1016 and the creation of the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority.

MANTS has a very long-term relationship with Baltimore City and partners, including the Baltimore Convention Center, dozens of hotels, restaurants, and tourist attractions. We are North America's largest professional horticultural trade show and held our 54th annual event at the Baltimore Convention Center last month. This event was MANTS 44th consecutive annual show in Baltimore.

From humble beginnings in 1971, with just 61 exhibiting companies and a few hundred attendees, MANTS has grown to host more than 920 companies and welcomes more than 11,000 exhibitors and attendees to Baltimore annually. In 2024, MANTS had an estimated economic impact of \$5.14 million, drawing 11,255 attendees and generating \$4.05 million in visitor spending. The event also contributed \$350,466 in state taxes, \$150,685 in local taxes, and \$20,112 in tourism district taxes, reinforcing its financial significance to the city.

From 2016 to 2024, MANTS has consistently played a vital role in Baltimore's economy, bringing in over \$35.76 million in total economic impact and \$22.5 million in visitor spending. Over this period, the show has attracted 86,334 attendees and generated more than \$3.15 million in combined state and local tax revenue. These figures underscore MANTS' continued importance in supporting local businesses, the hospitality industry, and city revenues.

The trade show is sponsored by professional nursery and landscape associations in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia and for its first 10 years, rotated production of its events amongst these three states. MANTS quickly outgrew the convention venues within this tri-state area, and when the BCC opened in 1980, MANTS made the BCC its home, hosting its first show in Baltimore in January 1981.

The BCC is still the only venue in this tri-state area with capacity to host MANTS, hence its success and viability is of critical importance to the thousands of exhibitors and attendees that annually flock to Baltimore to conduct business, stay in hotels, and spend their dollars in Baltimore's restaurants and tourist attractions. The success and viability of the BCC is critical to Baltimore so that city-wide events such as MANTS can continue to come and earnestly want to come to Baltimore.

At this point in time, there is issue and question with the Baltimore Convention Center and its ability to provide a safe and reliable meeting and convention venue. Failing, aging, and decrepit infrastructure is a real and present threat to the viability of business and is a significant detractor to the ambiance of the physical building. MANTS exhibitors and attendees have, for quite a few years, endured leaky ceilings dripping street water into booths, coped with floods from burst pipes, managed work-arounds with faulty electrical boxes, and tolerated antiquated restroom facilities.

The MANTS board wishes to continue to hold MANTS in Baltimore because it is the only venue within its partnering organization states that is large enough to host us (MANTS could in fact support larger space, with a wait list of 150 companies); Baltimore is an affordable destination; and is easy to get to from any point in the country, and most of the world. As a native Baltimorean (County), I am proud of our City and want my event to be able to continue to be held in Baltimore.

There are many fantastic options to choose over Baltimore as a meeting site, and it does not take a lot of effort for a meeting planner to find one. It is my hope and expectation that with the creation of an Authority empowered to effect change, that the infrastructure challenges that have lain dormant within the BCC will be tackled before the venue's ultimate and certain failure. If the BCC fails to flourish and draw business, the trickle down impact on Baltimore's citizens and economy would be devastating.

For over 40 years, MANTS has proudly called Baltimore home, bringing thousands of industry professionals and millions in economic impact to the city each year. We want to continue that tradition, but the Baltimore Convention Center's aging infrastructure threatens the future of our event and the many businesses that rely on it. Our exhibitors and attendees deserve a safe, reliable, and modern facility—one that matches the professionalism and excellence of the service we receive from the BCC staff and the businesses occupied by our attendees.

Senate Bill 0672 is a critical step toward securing that future. The creation of an Authority dedicated to the redevelopment and sustainability of the BCC gives us confidence that real, meaningful improvements can be made. We strongly urge the General Assembly to support this legislation and ensure that Baltimore remains a top destination for events like MANTS for years to come.

Sincerely,

Vanessa A Sinney

Vanessa Finney Executive Vice President MANTS

The Masterpiece of Trade Shows™ www.mants.com

HB1016_SB 972_AFSCME3_FWA.pdf Uploaded by: Denise Gilmore

Position: FWA



HB 1016/SB 672 – Economic Development - Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority – Established

Favorable with Amendments

Our unions represent the dedicated city workers who perform maintenance and operations duties to support the 100 events, and 400,000 visitors welcomed annually to the Baltimore Convention Center (BCC). AFSCME Local 44 members carry out this essential work while maintaining over 1.65 million square feet of facility space. Meanwhile, Unite Here Local 7 members in Baltimore proudly cook and serve meals to convention center visitors and provide hospitality services to many of these visitors at hotels surrounding the convention center. We share a common goal of establishing a modern, vibrant convention center in Baltimore City.

First and foremost, we firmly believe that the Baltimore Convention Center (BCC) should remain publicly owned and operated by the City of Baltimore. This is the most effective way to ensure that the revenues generated by the convention center remain accountable to the public, and that city employees who dedicate their careers to working at the BCC continue to receive fair pay, benefits, and union protections.

If, however, we move forward with establishing an Authority to govern the renovation, revitalization, and ongoing maintenance and operations of the BCC, we request the enclosed amendments to ensure that public support is going towards maintaining and creating good union jobs at the site.

Our amendments do the following:

- 1. Requires that the Authority shall establish rules and regulations that they will use union represented employees in the convention center.
- 2. Requires that the Authority has and maintains a preference for using public employees to perform the work of maintaining and operating the convention center.
- 3. Allows employees of the Authority to have the same collective bargaining rights that other state employees have under the <u>Public Employee Relations Act</u>.
- 4. Requires that the authority employ all current City employees and employees of subcontractors, at the convention center, except those terminated for cause, and requires the Authority to recognize their current union, bargaining unit, and collective bargaining agreement.

Public support for the tourism industry in Baltimore has always been premised on the creation of community supporting jobs and failing to protect the Union jobs which exist at the Convention Center would undermine that goal.

Signed:

Patrick MoranTracy LingoPresidentPresidentAFSCME Council 3Unite HERE Local 7, Baltimore

AFSCME Amendments to SB 672/HB1016

Economic Development – Baltimore Convention Center and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority – Established

12-1208 (D) EMPLOYEES OF THE AUTHORITY ARE SUBJECT TO THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ACT.

(add, by amendment, to SPP 3-102 "this title applies to:.... MES ... OPD, <u>and</u> the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority.")

12-1206 - THE AUTHORITY SHALL

(9) ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS TO EFFECTUATE A PREFERENCE FOR FAIR, JUST, AND STABLE EMPLOYMENT AS MANFIESTED BY THE USE OF REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES FOR ALL WORK IN OR ON THE COVNENTION CENTER SITE OR DIRECTED BY THE AUTHORITY;

12-1206 - THE AUTHORITY SHALL (9/10) HAVE AND MAINTAIN A PREFERENCE FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TO PERFORM THE WORK OF MAINTAINING AND OPERATING THE CONVENTION CENTER;

Uncodified language....

...FURTHER ... That the Authority shall offer employment to all employees currently employed by the City of Baltimore, or a subcontractor thereof, and assigned to the Convention Center; retain all employees who accept employment for 180 days, except for termination with cause; recognize the current representative of those employees; recognize the appropriateness of a bargaining unit of such employees; and promptly bargain with the employee representative in good faith to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement.