

January 21, 2025

Minyanna Farmer
Managing Member
Real Estate Farmers LLC

Re: Testimonial Letter to the House Ways & Means Committee

Dear Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary,

Thank you Delegate Atterbeary and the Ways and Means Committee for your support of economic and neighborhood development throughout Maryland. My name is Minyanna Farmer and as a lifelong resident of West Baltimore, I'm writing to support the House Bill-0258 (SB4/HB258), which supports the continuous support provided by the West North Avenue Development Authority.

This bill introduces critical updates to the administrative structure and operational capacity of the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA), enabling it to address the unique challenges of revitalizing West Baltimore. The proposed changes outline adjustments to the composition of the WNADA board, ensuring a more inclusive representation of stakeholders, including residents, local business owners, and subject-matter experts. These additions are essential for fostering equitable decision-making that reflects the diverse needs of the West North Avenue corridor. By prioritizing inclusive governance, WNADA will be better equipped to develop initiatives that serve the community's long-term economic, social, and cultural goals.

The bill also emphasizes accountability and transparency through reporting requirements and periodic performance evaluations. These mechanisms will provide a clear roadmap for WNADA's activities, ensuring alignment with measurable goals for economic development, housing, and infrastructure improvements. Enhancing transparency will build trust among stakeholders and attract greater support from both public and private investors.

As an organization deeply committed to sustainable and equitable real estate development, Real Estate Farmers LLC recognizes the significant potential of these alterations to WNADA's framework. By strengthening the Authority's ability to coordinate resources, engage the community, and execute its mandate effectively, SB4/HB258 will catalyze transformative change in a region that has long faced disinvestment and inequities.

I would like to state for the record that the opinions expressed within this letter are my own.



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We respectfully urge you to support SB4/HB258 and advocate for its passage in the Maryland General Assembly. The proposed amendments are not just administrative adjustments but foundational improvements that will empower WNADA to make a lasting, positive impact on my community. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Minyanna Farmer, Managing Member
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