



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 28, 2025

Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
State of Maryland General Assembly

Dear Chair, Atterbeary and the Ways and Means Committee:

As Chairperson of the Governing Board for the State of Maryland's West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA), I am submitting this letter to illustrate my steadfast support of **HB258**. The bill is profoundly important and needed to support the continuation of the Authority's work. We have made major strategic investments in our efforts to revitalize the West North Avenue corridor.

Our investments are designed to enhance the quality-of-life eco-system in West Baltimore; and thus, our focus includes funding that benefits residents, housing, neighborhoods, education, economic development, and transportation (including motor vehicle and pedestrian). These investments will also increase property sales, and income tax revenue in Maryland and Baltimore City for years to come.


To date, \$14 million dollars in grant investments have been administered to organizations like BARCO/Open Works, who received \$2 million to acquire and develop portions of the Walbrook Mill lumber yard site next to Coppin State University, \$3.5 million has been awarded to black-owned small business real estate developers to acquire vacant and blight residential and commercial properties throughout the corridor.

It is important to note, the Authority has exceeded the State of Maryland's MBE participation goal by awarding contracts and grants to certified MBEs or local small-disadvantage minority businesses at rate of 49%, with approximately 40% of those funds received by minority women of color.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Chad Williams, funding support from Governor Wes Moore, and Senator Antonio Hayes's vision, the West North Avenue Development Authority's efforts are making a meaningful impact on the targeted communities between educational anchor institutions, Coppin State University (CSU) and the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA).

I deeply appreciate your consideration of my letter of support. Moreover, I respectfully request a favorable vote from the Ways and Means Committee, in support of **HB258**.

Sincerely,



Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins
President, Coppin State University
Chair, West North Avenue Development Authority