



January 28, 2025

Testimonial Letter to the State of Maryland Ways & Means Committee

Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair

Thank you Chair Atterbeary and the Ways and Means Committee for your support of economic and neighborhood development throughout Maryland. I'm writing to support the House Bill-0258, which provides support of the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNDA).

The communities of West Baltimore are calling on our State to prioritize resources and to continue the support for West Baltimore and the ongoing efforts of all of the West Baltimore neighborhoods to work in partnership with the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA).

I am the President of the Bolton Hill Community Association and have spent 46 years in West Baltimore. Having lived in the greater neighborhood and having worked for two Baltimore Mayors, I have seen West Baltimore neighborhoods suffer the impact of neglect. The Bolton Hill, Marble Hill and Madison Park neighborhoods have been divided historically and socially by the Eutaw Place Median (the "Red Line" which ran from North Avenue to Dolphin). We view our work with the West North Avenue Development Authority as helping to bridge that divide.

We are pleased that the State of Maryland has taken steps to address the years of economic and neighborhood development abandonment that our community has faced. I hope you will continue those efforts.

I urge the committee to support House Bill – 0258.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this written testimony and the chance to weigh in on policy and the wellbeing of West Baltimore. Your consideration of these matters and to solutions is very much appreciated. I would welcome an opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee Tawney".

Lee Tawney  
President  
410-952-3174