



DRUID HEIGHTS
Community Development Corporation

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation

2140 McCulloh Street Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Testimony
Bill Hearing – HB258
Position-Support

January 27, 2025

Honorable Chair Vanessa Atterbeary and Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you Chair Atterbury 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 supports the continuous support provided by the West North Avenue Development Authority. We are calling on our State to prioritize resources and support for West Baltimore and the efforts of (insert community or organization name, if applicable) to work in partnership with the West North Avenue Development Authority (WNADA).

My name is JohnDre Jennings, I serve as the Executive Director of Druid Heights Community Development Corporation. I have spent over eight (8) years in West Baltimore, where I work to empower communities of color and increase affordable homeownership.

In my experience, I have seen West Baltimore neighborhoods that need an increase of homeownership and revitalized corridors. I am pleased that the State of Maryland is taking steps to address the years of economic and neighborhood development abandonment that our community has faced. This support includes funding support towards capital projects which include Bakers View Homeownership project, stabilization of the 2200 block of Druid Hill and green space projects such as our Gold Street project.

I urge the committee to continue to provide continued support for revitalization strategies which include funding the West North Ave Development Authority. 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 solutions is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ms. JohnDre Jennings

JohnDre Jennings, Executive Director