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HB1178 – Baltimore City – Authority to Set Special Rates

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FAVORABLE

Honorable Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing to urge your support for HB1178 – Baltimore City – Authority to Set Special Rates.

Currently in the State of Maryland, all jurisdictions have to set a uniform property rate for every type of property. The only exception was approved last General Assembly session with the passage of HB2 which allowed for each jurisdiction to set a special rate for vacant and abandoned properties.

HB1178 expands this to allow jurisdictions to create classes of properties and set the property tax for each class of properties. This flexibility will allow for jurisdictions to be more creative about how they raise revenues which could include providing for incentives for economic development, adding amounts to manage growth, or incentivizing activity. Currently, municipalities have these options, but our counties and Baltimore City do not.

We look forward to having thoughtful conversations after this bill passes to be strategic about what classes make sense and the rate for each class. We will have these conversations in the context of our economic and community development strategies to reduce the number of vacant buildings through redevelopment, intentionally creating mixed income communities, and growing our population.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I can be reached on 410-396-4814 or via email at odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov.

Respectfully Submitted:

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