

Senate Bill 8181
Bolton Hill Community Association Testimony
March 4, 2026

My name is Lee Tawney. I am the President of the Bolton Hill Community Association. I was born in Baltimore, before State Center was built and have been a resident of Bolton Hill for 45 years.

The Bolton Hill Community Association enthusiastically supports Senate Bill 818. Bolton Hill is a strong, diverse neighborhood of 5,000 people immediately north of State Center, and it is vital to us that State Center become a vibrant good neighbor.

During the last State Center planning process, our organization was a member of the State Center Neighborhood Alliance, and many of us worked directly with members of the development team. Our neighbors have skills and experience that can be of help with the new process.

We are pleased to see that the State is committing several departments to this work. State Center is more than a big site with some big buildings. It is a major transit hub, and it creates the environment for some of Maryland's premier cultural and educational institutions (Baltimore Symphony, Arena Theater, Eubie Blake Center, University of Baltimore, and MICA)

State Center today is a barrier that divides our neighborhood, as well as Madison Park and Marble Hill, from Mount Vernon and from Downtown Baltimore. We are keen to work with the State to turn State Center from a barrier into a bridge. It is hard for us to cross Dolphin Street. It is lonely and sometimes frightening to walk through the site itself. And it is downright dangerous to cross Howard Street. My wife was hit by a car trying to do so.

Whatever happens on the State Center site – whether people live there, work there, shop there, or all of the above – it needs to be a safe and pleasant place to walk.

State Center was one of many Urban Renewal projects that divided Baltimore neighborhoods in the 1950s and the 1960s. It is one of several such projects on the borders of Bolton Hill. work with the State and our neighbors towards that goal. As we proceed, let us be mindful of the people living in McCulloh Homes, The Cecil Apartments, and Bolton House,

We have an opportunity to re-unite with our neighbors on all sides of the site, and you can count on the Bolton Hill Community Association to work with the State and our neighbors towards that goal.

Help us build the bridge by supporting Senate Bill 818.