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HB1581: Economic Development – Horse Racing Facilities
Position: Favorable
April 2, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of Community Assistance Housing, Inc. (CHAI), thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 1581. CHAI strongly supports this legislation and its commitment to ensuring that redevelopment at the Pimlico site delivers meaningful, lasting benefits to the surrounding community.

We would like to highlight two provisions of HB 1581 that are especially important to residents and community stakeholders.

First, the bill requires that 10 percent of profits generated by the project be reinvested directly into the community, with funds distributed through the Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA). This provision helps ensure that economic activity at the site translates into real, tangible benefits for residents of neighborhoods surrounding the Pimlico Race Course. This funding will support community priorities and reinforce mutual success.

Second, HB 1581 establishes an important safeguard for transparency and accountability by requiring community input through the Pimlico Community Advisory Board (PCAB) should there be a need for alternate use of the site in the future. This guarantees that residents will have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect their neighborhood and preserves the principle that redevelopment must remain responsive to community needs over time. The PCAB has developed community trust over the six years since its formation and is the right body to convene this community input, if needed.

CHAI urges a favorable report on House Bill 1581.
Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted:
Lisa K. Budlow
Chief Executive Officer

