

2/10/2026



Maryland Economic Matters Committee
231 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

We are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 5, which would create a Maryland State New Markets Development Program.

Our organizations work in low-income communities across the country. We raise private capital and put it to work in small businesses. And we see, every day, how effective the New Markets Tax Credit program is at bringing outside investment into places that need it most.

The federal New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program works by encouraging private investors to put capital into businesses and projects located in distressed communities. Since 2003, Maryland has received \$1.3 billion in investment, financed 130 projects, and created 15,200 permanent full-time jobs. However, on a per-capita basis, the state ranks around 20th nationally in attracting NMTC capital. That is not because the need is lower here. These dollars are competitive among states, not guaranteed, and states with scalable, predictable programs consistently attract more federal capital.

With the federal NMTC now permanent and Congress authorizing one of the largest allocations in its history, \$10 billion in investment authority, competition among states will only increase. Since 2007, 14 states have enacted state NMTC programs. Collectively, those states have gained more than 140 net positions (an average of +10 positions for each state) in federal NMTC per-capita rankings, 9 of the 14 states improved their rankings, with several seeing dramatic gains. Mississippi alone moved from 39th to 2nd nationally after adopting a state program.

A Maryland program would make the state more competitive for private and federal capital that is already flowing elsewhere, bringing new dollars into the state. It would support businesses that need investment to grow and create jobs. For many of these businesses, NMTC financing is the only form of patient capital available at the scale they need, when they need it.

This proposal has broad support from national and local Community Development Entities, investors, and community partners. We are committed to working with the Legislature to ensure the program is implemented responsibly and delivers meaningful results for Maryland communities.

We respectfully urge your support for the Maryland State New Markets Development Program and appreciate your leadership on policies that create jobs and strengthen local economies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan C. Dressler".

Ryan C. Dressler
Principal
Advantage Capital

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