



TESTIMONY
SENATE BILL 47
Education, Energy & the Environment
February 17, 2026
Position: FAVORABLE

Chair Korman and Members of Senate Education, Energy & the Environment:

The Community Development Network of Maryland (CDN) is the voice for Maryland’s community development sector and serves nearly 200 member organizations. CDN—focuses on small affordable housing developers, housing counseling agencies and community-based non-profits across the state of Maryland. The mission of CDN is to promote, strengthen and advocate for the community development sector throughout Maryland’s urban, suburban and rural communities. CDN envisions a state in which all communities are thriving and where people of all incomes have abundant opportunities for themselves and their families. Our network is a state partner of the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

SB 47 -Neighborhood BusinessWorks (NBW) loan program offers financing to new or expanding small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Funding is available for projects located in Priority Funding Areas. This bill removes the requirement for local approval.

Local approval is an added barrier to small businesses and non- profit participation in the NBW program.

According to the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, Maryland ranks 42nd for economic outlook and 41st for recent performance. These aren’t just numbers — they reflect a reality that affects jobs, families, and the state’s ability to fund essential services. Sluggish job growth, outbound migration, and budget shortfalls show that Maryland is at a pivotal moment. If we want a stronger future, we must prioritize an economy that supports business investment, expansion, and long-term growth.

We urge a favorable report for SB 47.

Submitted by Claudia Wilson Randall, Executive Director, Community Development Network of MD