



TESTIMONY FOR SB0725
Transfer of Real Property - Recordation Certification and State Transfer Tax
(Land Transfer Accountability Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Waldstreicher

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0725 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

We used to be able to rely on the federal government to act responsibly. After seeing what happened last year with DOGE and the executive orders that were issued by the Trump Administration to wreak havoc on just about everything, we not only recognize that they can't act responsibly, but we have a responsibility to try to stop them from doing actual harm in our state.

This bill, if enacted, sets guardrails around the federal government's ability to casually dispose of own land and buildings it owns in the state. It requires that the Clerk of the Circuit Court must have a Certificate of Compliance before recording an instrument that effects a change of ownership of property from the United States to another person. It does not affect the transfer of land or buildings to the state, county, or municipal entity, or to another branch of the federal government.

We've already seen that the current Administration has sought to dispose of federal office buildings and preserved natural resources without a single thought about the consequences. There are always consequences and this bill would at least make the government think through them and defend what they are doing.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.