



March 2, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins & The House Ways and Means Committee
130 & 131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Opposition to House Bill 0983 - State Tax Credits, Modifications, and Exemptions - Alterations and Repeal

Chairwoman Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Distinguished Members of the Ways and Means Committee: **The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) requests an UNFAVORABLE REPORT on House Bill 0983.**

AAEDC is a quasi-governmental organization whose mission is to foster diverse economic growth by empowering businesses, expanding employment opportunities, and revitalizing communities. In partnership with the County and the State, AAEDC delivers tools and resources that strengthen the local business climate and expand the tax base across diverse industry sectors.

AAEDC has awarded over \$4.5 million in loans and \$584,000 in accompanying grants through the Arundel Community Reinvestment Fund (ACR) since the program's inception, in 2007, and has funded projects that are designated for revitalization, including in Enterprise Zones.

These projects spur economic activity, investment, and improvement in older commercial districts, generating new tax revenue and jobs that benefit the local economy and surrounding communities. They would not be possible without incentives, such as tax credits afforded through Enterprise Zones, which can be stacked with other essential tools to spur transformative economic development.

Widespread budget challenges and economic shifts demand more innovative strategies — not the elimination of proven tools that support growth. Removing these tools forces counties to navigate economic uncertainty with fewer resources, limiting their ability to respond to business needs and workforce demands.

For these reasons, AAEDC respectfully urges an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT** on House Bill 0983 and appreciates the General Assembly's continued commitment to protecting the programs that have been proven to incentivize new investment and economic growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Gowan", written in a cursive style.

Amy Gowan
President/CEO