

HB0898\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
02/24/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#0898- POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act**

**TO:** Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and members of the Ways and Means Committee  
**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0898, **Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act**

Maryland needs flexibility, in this uncertain economic environment, to adjust its programs and processes to meet the moment effectively and efficiently.

This bill will meet that challenge by altering the designation, administration, and purposes of and eligibility for certain economic development programs; redesignating the Economic Development Opportunities Program Account to be the Strategic Closing Fund within the Department of Commerce; altering the purposes for and methods by which the Fund may be utilized; altering the termination date of the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program, Job Creation Tax Credit, Research and Development Tax Credit, and Employer Security Clearance Costs Tax Credit; etc.

The Department of Commerce and the Governor are requesting these vital tools be made available to assist in performance of positive economic steps for Maryland.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0898.**