



February 6, 2026

The Honorable Chairwoman Jheanelle Wilkins
The House Ways and Means Committee

RE: HB 602 - Baltimore County – Transfer Tax – Exemption for First-Time Home Buyers

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Madam Chair Wilkins, Madam Vice Chair Feldmark, and esteemed Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

The Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors® (GBBR) is an association of Realtors®, brokers, and property managers advocating for property rights in the greater Baltimore area. On behalf of GBBR, we write to you in support of HB 602.

We appreciate Delegate Long for sponsoring this legislation. Our industry seeks to incentivize and promote homeownership. One of the major obstacles to homeownership is affordability. We believe that this bill will help address and alleviate some of the affordability concerns by exempting the Baltimore County transfer tax for first-time homebuyers. Sometimes a few thousand dollars can make or break a deal. By passing this law, this will increase homeownership for young people struggling in their quest to build wealth. Not only will this benefit Baltimore County residents, but the increase in property taxes will also generate additional revenue for the County and State. This is a win-win!

Thank you for your time and we encourage the Committee to support a favorable report on HB 602.

John S. Geha

CEO

Greater Baltimore Board of REALTORS®