

October 19, 2020

Re: SUPPORT OF CB52-2020 – Route 1 Tax Credit

Dear Chairwoman Jung and Members of the Howard County Council:

The Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA) writes in support of Council Bill 52-2020, which would extend a property tax credit designed to encourage commercial and industrial redevelopment on the Route 1 corridor.

Specifically, this program creates a financial incentive for commercial and industrial property owners with frontage on Route 1, or adjacent to Route 1, to renovate and rehabilitate their properties. This bill proposes several positive changes to the program which provide additional flexibility and financial incentives.

Route 1 is already a valuable asset to Howard County, but it has potential to grow and generate more revenue for the County. MBIA supports legislation encouraging further growth in this area, and respectfully requests the Council to vote favorable for Council Bill 52. Additionally, MBIA requests the Council expand this credit to include residential property. The bill as drafted only applies to commercial and industrial projects that “include no residential component.” Removing this restriction and broadening the bill’s application to include residential, or at least mixed-use, would encourage more redevelopment.

Route 1 represents one of the few areas in the County where growth could and should take place. For these reasons, the MBIA supports this legislation, and asks you please expand its application and vote in favor of Council Bill 1-2020.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and your continued support of the local home building industry. If you have any questions about these comments and would like to discuss MBIA’s position further, please do not hesitate to contact me at abailey@marylandbuilders.org or (202) 815-4445.

Best regards,



Angelica Bailey, Esq., Vice President of Government Affairs

Cc: Councilman Opel Jones
Councilmember Christiana Mercer Rigby
Councilman David Yungmann

County Executive Calvin Ball
Sameer Sidh, Chief of Staff to the County Executive
Councilmember Elizabeth Walsh