



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE PAM QUEEN
HB 39 – Report on the Public or Private Conversion of State Property to
Affordable Housing
SUPPORT

Greetings Chair Maggie McIntosh, Vice-Chair Mark Chang, and members of the Appropriations Committee:

According to a 2020 Maryland Housing Needs Assessment & 10-year Strategy Plan (NCSG), Maryland will have to make big changes to its housing ecosystem to keep homes affordable over the next 10 years. This is an ecosystem that includes a variety of housing options with a focus on home ownership for working families.

Also, the House Economic Stability Workgroup identified lack of affordable, stable housing as a barrier from working families to become economically stable. Homeownership is an important step towards wealth creation for families.

HB 39 requests a survey of unused, surplus private and public State property for potential conversion into affordable housing, especially properties near public transportation, existing commercial developments, and new commercial developments. Seeking funding from any federal incentives is encouraged to support the survey and recommendations.

This bill is a first-step to expand options for affordable housing for Maryland working families. I seek a favorable recommendation for HB 39.