



SB151 – Equitable and Inclusive Transit–Oriented Development Enhancement Act

Testimony before

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

January 25, 2023

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB151**, to encourage and incentivize more equitable Transit Oriented Development within the state. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Sen. Augustine for sponsoring this important legislation.

This bill creates a Capital Grant and Revolving Loan Fund, the purpose of which is to promote equitable and inclusive Transit-Oriented Development in Maryland. The fund will provide financial assistance to local jurisdictions for design planning, infrastructure improvements within a Transit-Oriented Development, or gap funding to make up the difference in available funding for a suitable development. All of this is predicated on meeting certain critical goals around access to affordable housing within the development, for Low/Moderate Income (LMI) and minority residents. The bill attempts to bridge the gap to address the serious lack of housing options for LMI residents, especially in areas that are close to available transit options that are crucial for residents to access employment, medical care, and nearby amenities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

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