



## Advocacy Alert!

### Your Support is Needed for the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit!

Your help is needed to ensure the passage of the **Sustainable Communities Act (SB 285/ HB 475)**. SB 285/ HB 475 reauthorizes and renames the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program as the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program. Governor O'Malley has proposed a three-year authorization with a \$50 million allocation. The proposed Act would allow up to 40 percent of the credits to be made available to non-historic structures in established areas, such as Main Street business districts, Transit-Oriented Development areas near light-rail or train stations, and BRAC enterprise zones. The credit will be 10 percent of rehabilitation costs for non-historic structures, 20 percent for historic structures and 25 percent for historic renovations with LEED energy-saving certification. This is believed to be the first program of its kind in the nation to link historic preservation with "green" construction. [Please click here for a summary of the legislation.](#)

The Senate Budget and Taxation Committee hearing took place, **Wednesday 17 at 1:00 p.m.** This bill was cross-filed in the House. We are awaiting word of the dates and times for the hearings to be held by the House **Ways and Means Committee** and the **Environmental Matters Committee**.

It is critical that you voice support for the Sustainable Communities Act to your representatives in the General Assembly. We cannot afford to lose this valuable tool at a time when it is most needed. Contact the legislators listed below and let them know how important this legislation is to your community!

## TAKE ACTION!

Contact members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee and the House Ways & Means and Environmental Matters Committees and urge them to pass the reauthorization of the **Sustainable Communities Act**.

When contacting your legislators, please keep in mind the following important points:

- The new legislation is enhanced by changing the program to a \$50 million tax credit allocation over three years to provide predictability for both users of the program and the State Comptroller, and creating a 10% credit to stimulate the rehabilitation of non-historic properties in Transit Oriented Developments and designated Main Street and Maple Street Communities.
- This would be the first program of its kind in the nation to provide a bonus for Green Building projects.
- [A recent study commissioned by the Abell Foundation](#) found that every \$1 of tax credit awarded by the State generates \$8.53 in economic output.
- Since its inception, the program has resulted in the rehabilitation of 591 commercial and 3,212 residential buildings and over \$1.5 billion of investment by developers and homeowners.

## Committee Members and Contact Information

The **Senate Budget and Taxation Committee** hearing took place, **Wednesday, February 17 at 1pm**. **Please contact members of this committee and urge them to support SB285.** If your delegation is not represented on this committee, please contact [Ulysses Currie](#), chair of the committee.

The Budget and Taxation Committee members are as follows:

Name	District	County	Phone	Email
<a href="#">Ulysses Currie</a> , <i>Chair</i>	25	<a href="#">Prince George's County</a>	(301) 858-3127 (410) 841-3127	<a href="mailto:ulysses.currie@senate.state.md.us">ulysses.currie@senate.state.md.us</a>
<a href="#">Edward J. Kasemeyer</a> , <i>Vice-Chair</i>	12	<a href="#">Baltimore &amp; Howard Counties</a>	(410) 841-3653 (301) 858-3653	<a href="mailto:edward.kasemeyer@senate.state.md.us">edward.kasemeyer@senate.state.md.us</a>
<a href="#">David R. Brinkley</a>	4	<a href="#">Carroll &amp; Frederick Counties</a>	(410) 841-3704, (301) 858-3704	<a href="mailto:david.brinkley@senate.state.md.us">david.brinkley@senate.state.md.us</a>
<a href="#">James E. DeGrange, Sr.</a>	32	<a href="#">Anne Arundel County</a>	(410) 841-3593, (301) 858-3593	<a href="mailto:james.degrange@senate.state.md.us">james.degrange@senate.state.md.us</a>
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<a href="#">Verna L. Jones</a>	44	<a href="#">Baltimore City</a>	(410) 841-3612, (301) 858-3612	<a href="mailto:verna.jones@senate.state.md.us">verna.jones@senate.state.md.us</a>
<a href="#">Nancy J. King</a>	39	<a href="#">Montgomery County</a>	(410) 841-3686, (301) 858-3686	<a href="mailto:nancy.king@senate.state.md.us">nancy.king@senate.state.md.us</a>
<a href="#">Rona E. Kramer</a>	14	<a href="#">Montgomery County</a>	(410) 841-3625, (301) 858-3625	<a href="mailto:rona.kramer@senate.state.md.us">rona.kramer@senate.state.md.us</a>
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<a href="#">Nathaniel J. McFadden</a>	45	<a href="#">Baltimore City</a>	(410) 841-3165, (301) 858-3165	<a href="mailto:nathaniel.mcfadden@senate.state.md.us">nathaniel.mcfadden@senate.state.md.us</a>
<a href="#">Donald F. Munson</a>	2	<a href="#">Washington County</a>	(410) 841-3609, (301) 858-3609	<a href="mailto:donald.munson@senate.state.md.us">donald.munson@senate.state.md.us</a>
<a href="#">Douglas J. J. Peters</a>	23	<a href="#">Prince George's County</a>	(410) 841-3631, (301) 858-3631	<a href="mailto:douglas.peters@senate.state.md.us">douglas.peters@senate.state.md.us</a>
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<a href="#">J. Lowell Stoltzfus</a>	38	<a href="#">Somerset, Wicomico &amp; Worcester Counties</a>	(410) 841-3645, (301) 858-3645	<a href="mailto:lowell.stoltzfus@senate.state.md.us">lowell.stoltzfus@senate.state.md.us</a>
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The House **Ways and Means Committee** does not currently have a hearing scheduled. Hearings dates and times will be [posted on the Assembly's website](#) once they are scheduled. **Please contact members of this committee and urge them to support HB475.** If your delegation is not represented on this committee, please contact [Sheila E. Hixson](#), chair of the committee.

The members are:

<a href="#">Sheila E. Hixson</a> , <i>Chair</i>	20	<a href="#">Montgomery County</a>	(410) 841-3469, (301) 858-3469	<a href="mailto:sheila.hixson@house.state.md.us">sheila.hixson@house.state.md.us</a>
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<a href="#">Joseph R. Bartlett</a>	4A	<a href="#">Frederick County</a>	(410) 841-3080, (301) 858-3080	<a href="mailto:joseph.bartlett@house.state.md.us">joseph.bartlett@house.state.md.us</a>

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<a href="#">Jon S. Cardin</a>	11	<a href="#">Baltimore County</a>	(410) 841-3833, (301) 858-3833	<a href="mailto:jon.cardin@house.state.md.us">jon.cardin@house.state.md.us</a>
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<a href="#">Anne R. Kaiser</a>	14	<a href="#">Montgomery County</a>	(410) 841-3036, (301) 858-3036	<a href="mailto:anne.kaiser@house.state.md.us">anne.kaiser@house.state.md.us</a>
<a href="#">Peter F. Murphy</a>	28	<a href="#">Charles County</a>	(410) 841-3247, (301) 858-3247	<a href="mailto:peter.murphy@house.state.md.us">peter.murphy@house.state.md.us</a>
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The House **Environmental Matters Committee** does not currently have a hearing scheduled. Hearings dates and times will be [posted on the Assembly's website](#) once they are scheduled. **Please contact members of this committee and urge them to support HB475.** If your delegation is not represented on this committee, please contact [Maggie McIntosh](#), chair of the committee.

The members are:

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