



THE GREATER BETHESDA
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Better business. Stronger community.

Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

In Support of

House Bill 548—Land Use-Permitting—Development Rights (Maryland Housing Certainty Act)

February 19, 2026

House Economic Matters Committee

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 600 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on House Bill 548—Land Use—Permitting—Development Rights (Maryland Housing Certainty Act).

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce recognizes Maryland's housing shortage has increasingly become an economic development issue as much as a residential one. Employers across industries are facing growing challenges attracting and retaining talent due to limited housing availability and rising costs. We believe House Bill 548, in conjunction with other proposals the committee is taking up this legislative session, helps Maryland and local jurisdictions address this issue by reducing regulatory uncertainty, lowering upfront costs for builders and speeding up housing production.

For these reasons, we support House Bill 548 and urge a favorable vote.