



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE AND SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 314/SENATE 267—BALTIMORE CITY – PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – NEWLY CONSTRUCTED DWELLINGS

DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is an independent non-partisan regional business advocacy organization of more than 500 businesses—large, medium and small—educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 59-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability. It is an organization that prides itself on advocating for changes in public policies that strengthen the business climate while improving the quality of life.

The Greater Baltimore Committee **supports** HB 314/SB 267 Baltimore City – Property Tax Credit – Newly Constructed Dwellings.

HB 314/SB 267 extends the termination date of the existing Baltimore City property tax credit for newly constructed dwellings from June 30, 2014, to June 30, 2019. The bill also repeals the one-time amnesty period for owners who failed to meet the application deadline and who were denied the tax credit.

The modifications to the credit will allow for more people to take advantage of the credit and by doing so it acts as an incentive for further population growth for the middle income in the City of Baltimore. This is important for Baltimore to grow. The Newly Constructed Dwelling Property Tax Credit helps to rebuild the tax base while providing some property tax relief to a jurisdiction with a rate that is twice that of its neighbors. The Property Tax Credit for Newly Constructed Dwellings is an incentive that has existed since 1996 and since 2009 has offset over \$3 million annually in property taxes for qualified homebuyers.

For the reasons stated above, the Greater Baltimore Committee requests a **favorable report of HB 314/SB 267**.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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