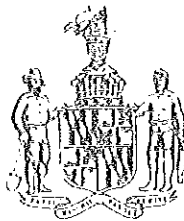


MICHAEL E. BUSCH
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

30th Legislative District
Anne Arundel County



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

March 19, 2014

Mr. Jon Laria, Esq.
Managing Partner
Ballard Spahr, LLP
300 Lombard Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mr. Laria:

As you know, I created a Regional Revitalization Workgroup to look at a number of different strategies and opportunities to increase economic development activity, homeownership, and community stability.

Delegates Sandy Rosenberg and Doyle Niemann have sponsored legislation to create a Task Force on Homeownership Strategy to bring together the legislature and state agencies, with the private sector and local governments to study the impact of the financial crisis on historically owner-occupied neighborhoods and to identify resources and strategies and recommendations to preserve the stability of historically owner-occupied neighborhoods and promote homeownership in these neighborhoods.

I believe it would also be prudent to include private development and banking professionals as part of this discussion, to specifically think about what the impacts of changes in the banking have been, development and real estate environment on neighborhoods, families, homeownership and local tax base, as well as what can be done to mitigate any negative impacts.

Since the goals of this Task Force are consistent with those of the Sustainable Growth Commission, I request that its Housing Workgroup undertake this effort during the interim of this year with the intent to recommend legislation to the next General Assembly beginning in 2015 addressing the issues referenced above.

Please let me know if the Commission is willing to undertake this important study.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Busch".

Michael E. Busch
Speaker

Cc: Secretary Richard Hall
Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg
Delegate Stephen W. Lafferty
Delegate Peter A. Hammen
Delegate Keiffer Mitchell, Jr.