

Action Request from Beyond the Boudaries:

We write asking you to *support amendments* to legislation that would create substantial new resources for affordable housing at the State and local levels.

The proposal is **HB 486/SB 644 — Maryland Affordable Housing Investment Fund**.

Its provisions could help provide resources to fund the proposed the Baltimore City Inclusionary Housing bill.... And these funds can be used for lower income housing throughout the state.

Background:

- HB 486/SB 644 would:
 - Provide \$50 million for existing State housing programs;
 - Provide \$50 million for local affordable housing initiatives; and
 - Increase the property tax rate by 2¢ to make this possible.
- The 2004 Governor's Commission on Housing Policy identified a statewide shortage of 157,000 housing units over the next 10 years, including over 47,000 units that are affordable to low-income Marylanders.
- In 2006, existing State housing programs were on track to address only 27% of the identified shortage.
- The current bill provides no assurance that increased funding will serve Marylanders who need it most. The additional funding could be used to support programs aimed at households with incomes as high as \$90,000 per year.

Why Support HB 486/SB 644 with these Amendments?

- HB 486/SB 644 provides a dedicated funding source for affordable housing programs, ensuring their viability for the long-term.
- The amendments will help State and local governments create and preserve housing that is affordable to a wide range of Maryland residents.
- Restaurant staff, home health aids, janitors, and other low-wage workers are a critical part of Maryland's workforce — they too are hardworking families who need and deserve our support in their quest for affordable housing.
- It will be a good source for some of the funds that could be used to support low income housing in mixed income settings, such as in the proposed Inclusionary Housing bill in Baltimore City.

What YOU can do to HELP...Write or Send an Email to:

- The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair, House Environmental Matters Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street — Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401
maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us
- Senator Joan Carter Conway
Chair, Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street — 2 West Wing
Annapolis, MD 21401
joan.carter.conway@senate.state.md.us

A "Sample Alert Letter" is enclosed.

Thank you for your willingness to add your voice in support of the Maryland Affordable Housing Investment Fund.

- Bro. Jerry O'Leary

[Sample Alert Letter for HB 486-SB 644.rtf](#)

(Letter in rich text format which can be read by any word processing program)