

State Center Neighborhood Alliance

c/o Baltimore Urban League
512 Orchard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

December 4, 2014

Senator Catherine Pugh, 40th District
Senator Nathaniel McFadden, 45th District, Vice-Chair, Budget & Tax Committee

Dear Senator Pugh and Senator McFadden,

This letter is on behalf of the State Center Neighborhood Alliance, Inc., which consists of twelve community organizations and institutions that are neighbors to the State Center redevelopment project in Baltimore.

We want to be clear. We support this project in its efforts to provide jobs, establish homes, create shopping and retail opportunities, enhance the City tax base, and support and improve our communities.

Community members have been involved with this project since the beginning ... even being part of the selection committee that chose the original development team. Community representatives have helped to shape the project through dozens if not hundreds of meetings to discuss jobs, design, tenants, community impact, and improvements to our neighborhoods and to our City.

Our communities have stayed the course through years of planning and years of court cases. Now, we are on the brink of implementation.

We understand that a briefing on State Center will be made to the Senate Budget & Tax Committee next week and that a minor change to the Department of Transportation budget affecting the underground garage will go before the Board of Public Works later this month.

From the community's perspective, the results from each meeting should move the project ahead, not hold it back.

The State Center redevelopment project will be a positive force for the neighborhoods and institutions in the immediate area, as well as to the Baltimore region. It can be an economic driver for communities, our constituents and our organizations.

Accordingly, we offer our support dependent upon continuing work, interaction, and commitments between the Alliance, its members, and the State Center team, specifically in the areas of jobs, overall design, traffic, commercial synergy, and overall community impact.

The Alliance is looking forward to a long term commitment and investment of the project in our respective communities and is committed to working with the Project Team to assure a healthy, vibrant project that will not only bring more residents and businesses to this area but also improve the surrounding neighborhoods.

This project is much more to us than a line item on a political agenda; it's our homes, our livelihoods, our families – our communities.

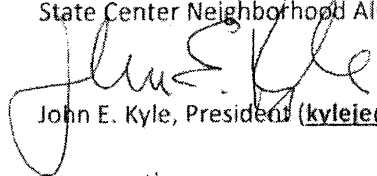
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If this project does not go forward, what we are offered instead is either a 28-acre site dividing our neighborhoods, open just 8 hours a day, 5 days a week - or worse: a concrete wasteland of empty parking lots and vacant buildings.

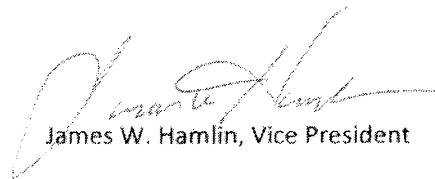
We ask for your support of this project. Please contact us with your response.

Sincerely,

State Center Neighborhood Alliance, Inc.



John E. Kyle, President (kyleje@gmail.com)



James W. Hamlin, Vice President

Representing

*Druid Heights Community Development Corporation; Kelly Little, Executive Director
Heritage Crossing Residents Association; Janet Allen, President
Historic Marble Hill Community Association; Steva Komeh, President
McCulloh Homes Resident Council, represented by June Johnson
Madison Park Improvement Association, Bert Pertusio, President-Elect
Midtown Development Corporation; Charlie Duff, Executive Director
Mount Royal Improvement Association; Steve Howard, President
Mount Vernon/Belvedere Association; Jason Curtis, President
Pennsylvania Avenue Redevelopment Collaborative, Inc. (PARC); James Hamlin, President
Seton Hill Association; Kevin Macartney, President
United Baptist Missionary Convention & Auxiliaries, Inc., represented by Trina Palmore
Upton Planning Committee, Inc.; Wanda Best, Executive Director*

CC: Delegate Barbara Robinson; Delegate Frank Conaway, Jr.; Delegate Shawn Tarrant; Delegate-Elect Antonio Hayes; Senator Verna Jones-Rodwell; Delegate and Senator-Elect Shirley Nathan-Pulliam; Delegate Keith Haynes; Delegate Keiffer Mitchell; Delegate Melvin Stukes; Delegate Cheryl Glenn; Delegate Nina Harper; Delegate-Elect Cory McCray; Delegate Talmadge Branch; Delegate Maggie McIntosh; Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake; Council President Jack Young; Council Member Eric Costello; Baltimore Development Corp. President & CEO William Cole; Deputy Mayor Andrew Smullian