

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Karen L. Sitnick, Director <i>KS</i>
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Mayor's Office of Employment Development 417 E. Fayette Street, Suite 468
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 08-0077R – Baltimore City Green Collar Jobs Creation Coalition

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
Room 400, City Hall

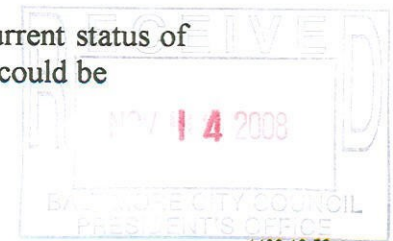
November 14, 2008

Bill No. 08-0077R requests that the identified members of the Mayor's Cabinet work collaboratively to form a coalition to develop a plan to create green collar jobs in Baltimore City. According to the text of the bill, this coalition would be "charged with examining this segment of the labor market, identifying the needs of businesses located in the City, developing appropriate training programs, and working with the private sector, public sector, and organized labor to provide Baltimore City's unemployed or under-employed residents with gainful employment opportunities."

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED), Baltimore City's workforce investment agency and one-stop career center operator, supports the creation of a broad strategy to foster the emergence of green collar jobs within the City. We believe that the emerging cadre of green or environmentally-driven employment opportunities could offer many Baltimore residents the chance to be productively engaged in the workforce and thus better able to support themselves and their families financially. Moreover, it is essential that we take steps now to promote the awareness of our youth and other job-seekers as to the likelihood of future career pathways with green business enterprises.

More specifically, MOED and its workforce partner, the Mayoral-appointed Baltimore Workforce Investment Board (BWIB), would be pleased to facilitate the overall implementation of the proposed Green Collar Jobs Creation Coalition. We believe that both our existing expertise and public and private sector contacts would allow MOED and the BWIB to be uniquely suited to initiate this task. The existing membership of the BWIB already consists of a number of parties (the Director of Baltimore's Department of Housing and Community Development and the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System) who are referenced in the legislation as proposed members of this coalition. In addition, the BWIB could also call on representatives from other relevant public and private sector entities (the Baltimore Development Corporation, the Department of Planning's Office of Sustainability, and the non-profit CivicWorks organization) to participate in the work of this coalition.

A great deal of research has already been conducted with regard to the current status of and future potential for green collar jobs here in the City of Baltimore, and could be



utilized to facilitate the work of the proposed coalition. For instance, the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies and the Jacob France Institute at the University of Baltimore recently completed an analysis of the current level of workforce demand for green jobs in the City. This analysis noted that, at present, Baltimore's green jobs are highly concentrated in the green building sector. In particular, green architecture and engineering businesses and green construction and contracting firms collectively account for 82 percent of all existing green collar jobs. Overall, there are approximately 57 companies and almost 1,000 employees working within the City's existing green or environmentally-driven business sector. While modest, these numbers could potentially increase over the next several years.

This report concluded by noting that the strongest near-term green collar job opportunities appear to be in the areas of green construction and building retrofitting, followed by emerging jobs related to future public-sector investments in energy efficiency. This finding is consistent with similar work that has been completed as part of the City's Sustainability Plan. The Sustainability Plan also contains a number of pertinent recommendations with regard to: promoting demand for green jobs, developing training programs for future green jobs, and nurturing a "green" business environment. These recommendations, made by the various working groups of the City's Commission on Sustainability, would prove to be invaluable to the Green Collar Jobs Creation Coalition.

MOED has been working closely with the Baltimore Office of Sustainability to identify ways to cultivate this emerging demand for green jobs. Specifically, we have been assessing the feasibility of a pilot initiative to provide training and accompanying employment opportunities for Baltimore residents to work in the de-construction of publicly-owned residential properties, in preparation for their redevelopment through the Department of Housing and Community Development. It is hoped that an initiative of this sort could serve as a model for the City's future engagement in green jobs promotion.

Ultimately, the work of the proposed green jobs coalition would serve to position the City of Baltimore to successfully seek future funding for the creation of green jobs training initiatives. In particular, the federal Green Jobs Act of 2007 authorized \$125 million per year to create an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program as an amendment to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Assuming that this program receives a specific budget appropriation in the near-term, Baltimore could utilize the knowledge gathered by the coalition to seek funds under this new federal program.

In conclusion, MOED is committed to serving as a partner in the proposed Green Collar Jobs Creation Coalition, and utilizing existing data and studies as a starting point for devising a comprehensive strategy for building a pipeline for future green collar jobs. MOED welcomes the opportunity to coordinate its efforts with those of other City cabinet-level agencies.

Page 3

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

KS/js

cc: Andrew Frank, First Deputy Mayor, Neighborhood and Economic Development
John W. Ashworth, Chairman, Baltimore Workforce Investment Board
Jeffrey W. Smith, Executive Liaison for Public Policy, MOED