



BALTIMORE HOUSING

SHEILA DIXON
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: April 7, 2008

Re: City Council Bill 08-0057 Property Tax Credits – High-Performance Buildings

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 08-0057, which was introduced for the purpose of granting a property tax credit for certain high-performance buildings.

The proposed legislation would provide a tax credit to a property owner equivalent to 100% of the City property tax imposed on a building that is designated as a “High-Performance Building”. This designation is achieved by receiving silver rating or higher from the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system.

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a national coalition of building industry leaders formed to promote construction that is environmentally responsible, profitable, and that creates healthy places to live and work. USGBC developed LEED as a self-assessment tool that measures the extent to which a building meets green building criteria on six dimensions: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design process. LEED standards have been adopted by 24 states and more than 90 local governments. There are more than 1,000 LEED-certified buildings in the country.

The Department of Housing and Community Development has no objection to the intent of City Council Bill 08-0057 but defers to the Department of Finance as to the fiscal impact of the proposed legislation.

PTG:pmd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson
Mr. Demaune Millard



Truly/Comment