

Commission on Sustainability Office of Sustainability 417 East Fayette Street, Eighth Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21202

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

The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary City Hall, Room 400 100 N. Holliday Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202

April 11, 2008

Dear Honorable President and Council Members:

City Council Bill # 08-0057 would grant property tax credit to buildings that achieve at least a LEED Silver ranking (or equivalent designation) equal to 100% of the City property tax. If the building is approved, the tax credit may be taken annually for up to 10 taxable years.

The Commission on Sustainability (Commission) defers comment on this bill. The Commission was sworn-in by Mayor Dixon on April 2, 2008 and will convene its first official meeting on April 22, 2008. As the Commission has yet to meet, any response to City Council Bill # 08-0057 would be premature. The Commission anticipates reviewing and commenting on proposed legislation after having made a sufficient amount of progress in developing the larger Baltimore Sustainability Plan recommendations, including adequate public input on major environmental issues. The planning process will take six months and the Commission expects to present a draft plan to the Planning Commission in October.

Regards,

Cheryl Casciani

Chair, Commission on Sustainability

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