


MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council  
Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO 

DATE: September 30, 2015

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 15-0565  
Personal Property Tax Credits – Food Desert Incentive Area

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The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 15-0565, a bill for the purpose of establishing a tax credit against the personal property improved on qualified supermarkets in Food Desert Incentive Areas.

As part of the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative, the Baltimore Development Corporation and the City have worked diligently for years to attract supermarkets in food deserts, confronting the real and perceived barriers to doing business in these areas. This legislation seeks to relieve some of the tax burden for grocers and increase profitability, thereby increasing the willingness to locate and continue operating in underserved areas. Food deserts are opportunities for economic development, increased revenue and employment; still, a meaningful financial incentive is necessary to attract *and* retain high quality supermarkets where they are most needed. State enabling legislation was passed earlier this year to ensure the legality of this credit.

BDC has reviewed and supports the proposed legislation and is respectfully requesting that Bill No. 15-0565 be given favorable consideration by the City Council.

cc: Colin Tarbert  
Leon Pinkett  
Angela Gibson

