



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

November 5, 2021

Eric Costello, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Baltimore City Council
100 Holliday St., Suite 500
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: CITY COUNCIL BILL 21-0168

Chair Costello and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I would like to emphatically support City Council Bill 21-0168 Tax Credits – Historic Properties – Application Extension, which will extend the period within which applications may be accepted for the tax credit for historic restorations and rehabilitations to February 28, 2023.

As it continues to recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Baltimore needs to prioritize its programs that encourage job growth and stimulate investment and revitalization. Baltimore City's Historic Tax Credit (HTC) program is such a ready-made economic recovery tool. It has helped more than 3,500 historic properties, leveraging a staggering \$1.2 *billion* in private investment into the City. Additionally, according to a report on the tax credit program by the leading firm specializing in the economic impact of historic tax credits across the country, the city can expect over \$40 million in additional tax revenues from properties that have utilized HTCs. The program is also a proven job creator, generating \$36 million in labor income and nearly 600 jobs annually. Extension of the program will allow the HTCs to continue to aid in the process of recovery and spur new growth by encouraging private investment into neighborhood revitalization efforts across the city.

Baltimore's HTC program assists in the preservation of designated buildings and districts by defraying the cost of substantial rehabilitation work and supporting projects that may not be financially feasible without the program, while also serving as a tool for equitable investment and revitalization. It is the city's primary financial incentive to encourage owners of historic residential and commercial buildings to invest in the revitalization of their neighborhoods. It helps direct private investment into neighborhoods that need it the most and helps increase the property values of not only the CHAP project itself but also that of properties in the surrounding area. Baltimore City's Historic Tax Credit program can be a key component to the City's economic recovery and future, while also preserving the city's rich and unique past.

Therefore, Preservation Maryland is pleased to support the extension of this vital program through City Council Bill 21-0168, and we look forward to supporting the Historic Tax Credit program's renewal in the coming years.

Thank you for your continuing support of historic preservation in Baltimore and consideration of the extension of this important program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elly Colmers Cowan".

Elly Colmers Cowan
Director of Government Relations, Preservation Maryland