

July 13, 2010

Comptroller of Maryland
80 Calvert Street
P.O. Box 466
Annapolis, MD 21404-0466

Dear Comptroller Franchot:

On behalf of the Baltimore City Inclusive Housing Collaboration, I'd like to express our full support for the State Center project. As the leading group focused on inclusive housing in Baltimore we believe that the State Center project not only addresses our primary concern of accessibility by lower income individuals and families but does it in a manner consistent with smart development and growth by its terrific location at transportation hub. While the inclusive housing ordinance in Baltimore would require 20% inclusion if it were applied to the development, the State Center project has gone above and beyond that level to a 30% inclusion rate. We wholeheartedly approve.

A community filled with opportunity for all members is critical for successful development. State Center will not only provide opportunity for residents but for the wider community in which it is located as well. Access to good jobs, good mass transit, and attractive design, contribute to good outcomes for residents.

The development team has been supportive and in constant contact with our member organizations to advance the cause of affordable housing in Baltimore. With the State Center project as a model for inclusionary housing development, our coalition will use their successful development as a model for others. We've witnessed the development team's consistency in intent for inclusion and transparency.

We absolutely support this project and ask that the State moves forward the first phase of this project. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Mel Freeman
CPHA, Executive Director
Co-Chair, Baltimore City Inclusive Housing Collaboration

CC: Governor Martin O'Malley
Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp