



December 9, 2014

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Referenced: The State Center Project

Druid Heights Community Development Corporation (DHCDC) is pleased to submit this letter of support for the State Center project in Baltimore, Maryland.

I am Roscoe Johnson III, Director of Real Estate Development for Druid Heights CDC, a nonprofit 501 C 3 community organization located in the 40th & 44th Legislative Districts of Baltimore, Maryland.

We are pleased that the State Center project is a great example of how community residents can work with public and private corporations to bring about economic revitalization that will positively benefit all parties. The magnitude of this project has galvanized support from all sectors.

The community will benefit as we advance a storm water plan that will be a model for the State of Maryland. This compliments the efforts we are already undertaking in Druid Heights and other neighborhoods in Central West Baltimore. Phase 1 will include a forward thinking natural habitat plan the will advance the overall design for best practices in environmental sustainability.

This project will maximize visibility connection and use of public transportation. The community will work with the Maryland Department of Transportation on enhancing the existing Light Rail and Metro stops. We will look to have Zip Car and bike share locations at State Center. The project will also create a safe bike route to connect to Penn North, downtown and West Baltimore.

The communities impacted by the State Center project is working hands on with the developers and the State to create an integrated, economically sound neighborhood that will benefit the City at large.

Thank you for a favorable recommendation for the development of the State Center project.

Sincerely,

Roscoe Johnson, III
Director of Real Estate Development