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May 27, 2011

Christopher Patusky, Director
Maryland Department of Transportation
Office of Real Estate
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548
Hanover, MD 21076



Re: State Center Economic Inclusion Plan

Dear ~~Mr. Neiman~~ *Chris*:

I am pleased and proud to write in support of the proposed partnership between the Community Churches for Community Development, Inc. (CCCD), the State Center Development Team, and Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO). I am aware of the community-centered work done by leaders of CCCD, and the various community stakeholders they have engaged around the subject of economic inclusion and local hiring. Our community is in dire need of a workforce development program with streamlined processes and holistic approaches and programs to serve the most challenged and vulnerable in our community. Your support of the efforts of CCCD is a critical partnership that will address the needs of our community better than any other.

There are not enough partnerships between community stakeholders and trades organizations that would focus on a quality workforce training program for this segment of our community. I am a firm believer that the earlier we can help to prepare our community members for the current workforce opportunities, the better our community will be. Our families will be more stable, our children will be safer and better educated, and the economic conditions of the community will be greatly enhanced.

Baltimore is already in the midst of a great renaissance. Partnerships such as the one being proposed here will make that renaissance more widespread and meaningful. It is with this in mind that I submit this letter of support for the inclusion of the Economic Inclusion Plan within the Development Management Agreement for the State Center development.

Sincerely,

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

EEC/hmw