



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Deputy Secretary

January 27, 2010

The Honorable Ulysses Currie, Chairperson
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support, Senate Bill 63: Transit-Oriented Development- Pledge and Use of Tax
Increment Revenues- Operations and Maintenance Funding

Dear Senator Currie and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment supports SB 63. The bill will allow local governments broader flexibility to use future anticipated increases in tax revenues from land development to fund future operations and maintenance of the developed parcel. In addition, the funds may or may not be used by the local governments in support of funding agreements involving the Maryland Economic Development Corporation, particularly as related to transit-oriented development ventures.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) policies support the promotion of transit expansion and increased transit ridership. These TOD policies have positive environmental, health-related, and energy security benefits. They reduce the largest source of vehicle emissions, the vehicle miles traveled (VMT), which results in a reduction of both greenhouse gas emissions and ozone precursor pollutants, thus improving air quality. Reducing VMT leads to less use of petroleum and increased energy independence. TOD policies are an important tool that will help the State achieve its environmental and transportation goals.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues as you review SB 63. Please contact me at 410-260-6301 or lnissley@mde.state.md.us if you would like to discuss any of these issues further.

Sincerely,

Lisa Nissley

Cc: George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr., Director, Air and Radiation Management Administration
Heather Barthel, Director, Legislation and Policy
Lisa Nissley, Legislative Liaison



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