

Reply all | Delete Junk |

Support for CB 7-2017

SV

Sharonlee Vogel <sharonleevogel@gmail.com>

Mon 1/16, 1:52 PM

CouncilMail

Reply all |

testimony in support of...

13 KB

Download

Dear County Council Members,

The Commission on Aging of Howard County is please to support CB 7-2017 amending the Livable Homes Tax Credit.

We urge you to pass it the bill enacting its provisions to update this tax credit.

Feel free to ask me and the Commission any questions!

Best wishes for 2017,

Sharonlee

Sharonlee J. Vogel
Chair, Commission on Aging
Howard County, MD

**TESTIMONY OF THE HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING SUPPORTING
COUNCIL BILL NO. 7-2017 AMENDING THE LIVABLE HOMES TAX CREDIT**

SUBMITTED: JANUARY 16, 2017

The Howard County Commission on Aging (COA) appreciates the opportunity to express its support for Council Bill No. 7-2017, amending the Livable Homes Tax Credit. The bill addresses many limitations in the existing Tax Credit program.

Howard County seniors consistently say that one of their top desires is to “age in place” in the homes they have lived in and loved for many years. Continuing to live healthy and active lives in their own homes enriches the Howard County community and enables our senior citizens to remain active participants in public life. The bill also contributes to the ability of many citizens with disabilities to remain independent in their homes.

Currently, the Livable Homes Tax Credit is not being claimed by most taxpayers eligible to take it. As originally enacted, the Livable Homes Tax Credit supported efforts to implement a relatively small number of specified retroactive improvements to existing housing stock. In the years since the program was implemented, society’s understanding of the types of improvements needed to enable senior and disabled citizens to successfully remain in their homes and same community has broadened. Council Bill 7-2017 updates the existing program to incorporate that understanding of changing needs and priorities.

The current bill broadens the scope of improvements supported and makes such improvements more affordable to seniors and people with disabilities. These changes will enable more home owners to take advantage of this valuable program while continuing to cap the cost of the program at \$100,000 per year.

The County Executive has stated a goal of making Howard County a model for enabling seniors to remain and thrive in our community. This legislation is an important step in that direction.

We urge the Council to adopt this important and desirable legislation.

Sharonlee J. Vogel
Chair, Commission on Aging
Howard County, Maryland