



Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Position

**SB 878
OPPOSE
EHEA
Committee
02/25/09**

SB 878

Smart Growth - Visions and Performance Standards

Brief Summary of Bill:

SB 878 alters the visions for land use plan, and establishes performance standards to measure the achievement of the visions. It requires a plan to be designed to allow a local jurisdiction to meet specified performance standards on or before October 1, 2018. It requires a local jurisdiction to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department of Planning by October 1, 2012, that the plan will achieve the performance standards by 2018.

Maryland Chamber's Position:

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill. The intention of this legislation is understood; however, the Chamber questions if the requirements in this legislation can actually be implemented by local jurisdictions, particularly with current strain on their financial resources. This legislation would require 80% inside growth near transit sites. This is an expensive requirement that would likely prove unachievable.

Additionally, the legislation could have a detrimental impact on businesses in particular, and communities in general in terms of the punitive nature of restrictions if local jurisdictions do not comply with the proposed standards.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests that the Committee give SB 878 an unfavorable report.

If questions please contact Allyson Black, ablack@mdchamber.org