

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Office of Tax and Revenue



November 13, 2019

The Honorable Kenyan R. McDuffie
Chairperson
Committee on Business and Economic Development
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 119
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Bill 23-439, "Longtime Resident Business Preservation Amendment Act of 2019"

Dear Chairperson McDuffie:

As requested at the November 6, 2019 hearing on the Longtime Resident Business Preservation Amendment Act of 2019 (Bill), we are pleased to provide the following comments for inclusion in the legislative record.

In general, the Bill would create a Longtime Resident Business Preservation Program to provide grants and low-interest loans for longtime resident businesses at risk of displacement. It also establishes a Longtime Resident Business Protection Registry listing businesses that may be eligible to apply for benefits.

The Bill calls on the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) to work with the Department of Small and Local Business Development to publicize the program by including information in OTR's regular mailings. OTR would be able to accommodate this provision as part of its regular mailings of real property tax bills or proposed annual assessment notices.

Additionally, if it is desired to exempt grants made under this program from District of Columbia income or franchise taxes, the provisions governing these taxes should be amended to so provide. We would be pleased to work with the Committee to develop the appropriate language.

Thank you again for providing this opportunity to respond to the Committee's inquiry. Let us know if we may be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bazil Facchina", written in a cursive style.

Bazil Facchina
Assistant General Counsel