



Testimony in Favor of An Act supporting affordable housing with a local option for a fee
to be applied to certain real estate transactions (H.1769)

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to the
Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government
Massachusetts General Court

September 10, 2019

Chair Rausch, Chair O'Day, and members of the Committee, my name is David Bryant, and on behalf of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, I want to express MACDC's strong support for the collective efforts of Representative Connolly and more than thirty of your colleagues. We support this petition, H.1769, authorizing cities and towns to impose a local option real estate transfer fee in support of affordable housing.

MACDC is an association of mission-driven community-based organizations dedicated to working together and with others to create opportunities for people of diverse incomes and backgrounds to access housing that is affordable, benefit from economic opportunities, and fully participate in the civic life of their communities.

H.1769 will enable cities and towns to assess a transfer on the sale of residential and commercial property, with several significant exemptions (e.g., family transfers and owner-occupants), and with the projected revenue dedicated to a municipality's affordable housing trust fund.

CDCs are dedicated to creating places of opportunity across the state where all people can live with dignity while participating in and benefitting from our Commonwealth's thriving economy. We applaud these legislators and their municipal colleagues for acting to further ensure housing security for vulnerable neighbors across these communities and request the Committee to report favorably this petition.

Respectfully submitted,

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