



Testimony in Favor of An Act Empowering Cities and Towns to Impose a Fee on Home Sales Over One Million Dollars to Support Affordable Housing (H.2895)

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to the
Joint Committee on Revenue

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Chair Cusack and Chair Hinds, and members of the Committee, my name is Joseph Kriesberg, and on behalf of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, I want to express MACDC's strong support for the legislation referenced above which will give Cities and Towns across the Commonwealth a critical new tool to build and preserve affordable housing and reduce speculation in their communities.

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.

We all know that Massachusetts faces a serious and long-standing housing crisis. COVID-19 has made things worse and the underlying problems remain so we need to act with even greater urgency. Last year, the Legislature enacted the Housing Choices legislation to empower cities and towns to take affirmative steps to address this crisis. This legislation is similar in that it enables, but does not require, a city or town to adopt a transfer fee to address the specific housing challenges in that community.

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 economy. We applaud 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 legislation.

Respectfully submitted,