



Testimony in Support of An Act authorizing the City of Somerville to impose a real estate transfer fee  
(H.4582)

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to the  
Joint Committee on Revenue  
Massachusetts General Court

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is David Bryant, and I am the Director of Advocacy, Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC). Thank you for the opportunity to express MACDC's strong support for the collective efforts of Representatives Connolly, Provost, Barber and Senator Jehlen, and with the approval of the mayor and city council, to petition the Legislature for authorizing the City of Somerville to impose a real estate transfer fee (H.4582).

MACDC is an association of mission-driven community development 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.4582 will enable the City of Somerville to assess a transfer fee on buyers and sellers of residential and commercial property, with several significant exemptions (e.g., family transfers and owner-occupants), and with the projected revenue dedicated to the Somerville 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 economy. We applaud these legislators and their municipal colleagues for acting to further ensure housing security for vulnerable neighbors in the City of Somerville and respectfully request the Committee to report favorably this Home Rule Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

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