



July 17, 2025

Chair Takis Karantonis
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Karantonis,

On behalf of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce, I write to express our support for the recommendations outlined in the Economic Development Commission (EDC)'s July 8, 2025, letter regarding the Commercial Market Resiliency Initiative (CMRI) and adaptive reuse amendment process.

The Chamber values the County's focused efforts to combat office vacancy challenges facing Arlington's commercial real estate market. The initial adaptive reuse projects under Board review represent a tangible demonstration of streamlined processes to achieve the goals outlined through CMRI. Successfully advancing these projects will demonstrate Arlington's commitment to innovation and adaptability.

The Chamber echoes the EDC's request for a timely, consistent, and predictable review process for adaptive reuse projects going forward. The effectiveness of CMRI will depend on the policy itself as well as its implementation. We specifically support the recommendation of departments to track and share lessons from the initial application process and identifying potential adjustments to procedures.

We sincerely appreciate your leadership on this crucial initiative. The Chamber looks forward to continued partnership with the County in our efforts to strengthen commercial resiliency and ensure that Arlington remains a great place to do business.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: County Board Vice Chair Matt de Ferranti; County Board Members Susan Cunningham, Maureen Coffey, and Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr.; Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager; Ryan Touhill, Arlington Economic Development Director; Marc McCauley, Director of Real Estate Development, Arlington Economic Development.