

To: Members of the State Government Finance, Veterans and Military Affairs Finance, and Elections Conference Committee

From: Paul Mandell, Executive Secretary, Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

Date: May 3, 2021

As the out-going Executive Secretary for the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, I am writing to respectfully urge your support for the full funding request of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) found in the Governor's Recommendation.

As I announced to the CAAPB Board early last fall, I will be retiring at the end of this fiscal year, June 30; after nearly thirty-four years at the CAAPB, the last six-plus as their Executive Secretary. It has been both pleasure and honor to serve the Board, the Legislature, and the public during such an important time in the history of the 60-block Capitol Area—witnessing not just the Comprehensive Restoration of the Capitol Building many of us were part of, but also the creation of over twelve memorials and commemorative works, security improvements and other enhancements to the entire Capitol Area to better serve all who work, live or visit. At this time, the Board is served by only three professionals (myself included), one of which is just part time. With a soon-to-be finalized *2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Capitol Area* that has been completely rewritten in-house to save money, important revisions to both the Board's *Zoning and Design Rules*, as well as the *Policy for Commemorative Art and Memorials on the Capitol Grounds*; and, at long last, after several starts, a complete redevelopment plan for the 17-acre Sears property, that staff, guided by a new Executive Secretary, will be stretched very thin.

There are two increases in the Governor's recommendation: first, a one-time change item for my retirement compensation I testified to in both of your committees; and second, a small adjustment to the CAAPB Board's base to cover inflationary costs our budget has limited flexibility to cover. For the future integrity of the Board in delivery of the level of service I believe we have become respected for in the past, I urgently implore you to support the full funding requested, and thank you, in advance, for that support.