

The Baltimore Industrial Group

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR DIXON, TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY PORCARI JOIN BALTIMORE INDUSTRIAL GROUP LEADERS, PORT EXECUTIVES AND UNION REPS CELEBRATE THE SIGNING OF THE MIZOD BILL

The bill, formally known as the Maritime Industrial Zoning Overlay District, protects precious industrial waterfront property from development through 2024

BALTIMORE, MD., May 12, 2009 – The Baltimore Industrial Group today held a bill signing ceremony to celebrate the passage of key Baltimore City legislation that protects from development thousands of acres of precious deepwater industrial property through 2024.

Baltimore City Mayor Sheila Dixon signed the legislation at a ceremony at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, 1415 Key Highway, before state and local officials, union representatives and members of the Baltimore Industrial Group, which lobbied for passage of the bill.

John D. Porcari, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation, attended along with former U.S. Rep. Helen Delich Bentley, Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, City Council Vice President Edward Reisinger and other Council members.

Baltimore Industrial Group Chairman John Redding presented Mayor Dixon with a salutation signed by members of the group commemorating the event.

“This is a great day for industry, labor and everyone who earns a living on Baltimore’s industrial harbor and at the Port of Baltimore,” said Mr. Redding, who heads the group whose members include owners and operators that rely on Baltimore’s working waterfront and the Port to carry out business. “We thank Baltimore City Council members for listening to our serious concerns and ideas about sustaining our manufacturing base. Their support is proof that they understand that protecting deepwater industrial property means protecting future jobs that are vital to Baltimore City’s economy.”

“Extending MIZOD to 2024 helps to protect good-paying, blue collar maritime jobs and helps to sustain the viability of the Port of Baltimore,” said Secretary Porcari. “I thank Mayor Dixon, City Council President Rawlings-Blake, and the City Council for all their efforts in making this happen.”

The Port represents 16,500 direct jobs, 33,700 indirect jobs, \$3.6 billion in annual personal wages and salaries, \$1.9 billion in annual business revenues and \$388 million in annual state, county and municipal taxes.

The MIZOD legislation was approved by Baltimore City Council members on March 23, 2009, and protects areas along the water that are critical to industry, especially to large ships that require deepwater access. It also enables industrial companies and the Port to expand operations and provide thousands of jobs that help drive the economy. MIZOD legislation was set to expire in 2014 and could have opened the property to the development of condominiums, shopping centers, stores and restaurants at deep water areas of industrially zoned waterfront.

About the Baltimore Industrial Group

The Baltimore Industrial Group represents owners and operators of industrial companies in Baltimore City, as well as directors of industrial associations whose members are located here. BIG members are also focused on transportation, shipping, and environmental issues with the goal of making sure that Baltimore's manufacturing and industrial base continues to flourish in years to come.