

# Special Invitation

## “Accelerating Innovation Through Opportunity Zones”



### Congressional Policy Briefing

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Russell Senate Office Building — Room 485  
Washington DC

This briefing provides expert perspectives from Congress, the White House, state government, business, policy research organizations and nonprofits on the latest developments and potential impact of Opportunity Zones (OZ's) on distressed communities. Created in the *2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*, **Opportunity Zones** are designed to drive long-term capital into low-income communities using tax incentives to encourage private investment into designated census tracts through privately- or publicly managed investment funds. The Treasury Department has approved 8,760 such zones in all 50 states, five territories, and Washington, D.C.

11:00 **REGISTRATION & NETWORKING**

11:30 **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Robert Palazzo, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, Univ. of Alabama (Birmingham) and ASTRA / SETWG

11:45 **CURRENT STATUS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR OPPORTUNITY ZONES**

Ben Hobbs, Special Assistant to the President, Domestic Policy Council  
Senator Tim Scott representative (Emily Lavery), Co-Sponsor of OZ legislation  
Senator Cory Booker representative (Veronica Duron), Co-sponsor of OZ legislation

12:15 **LUNCH BREAK (Box Lunch Served)**

12:30 **DISCUSSION PANEL: HOW WILL OZ'S IMPACT COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION?**

**Topics:** How OZ financing will work, eligible asset classes, linking innovation to OZ's, state and local government roles, economic development implications, job creation, infrastructure improvements, public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship and start-ups, sustainability, beyond real estate deals.

#### **MODERATOR:**

Egils Milbergs, Center for Accelerating Innovation, and PureBlue co-founder

#### **PANELISTS:**

Kevin Byrne, President & CEO, University Financing Foundation, Inc. (TUFF)  
Frank Dickson, Dir. Strategic Business Initiatives, Dept. of Housing & Community Development, State of Maryland  
John Cochrane, Mgr. Policy & Programs, U.S. Impact Investing Alliance  
Biju George, COO, DC Water  
Maurice Jones, CEO, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)  
Sam Kelly, Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch

1:15 p.m. **Q & A SESSION**

1:30 p.m. **CONCLUDES**

Meeting Hand-outs to include Legislation / Regulatory Analysis / Innovation Concepts / FAQ's / Participating Organization Materials

**RSVP or “Send OZ Materials” Requests to:**

[rboege@comcast.net](mailto:rboege@comcast.net)

**Please RSVP.** This Briefing is a nonpartisan “widely attended public event” under Congressional definitions. Alert us if you need any accommodations to attend by contacting ASTRA's Dr. Robert Boege at the e-mail address above...

**ASTRA will also send OZ Briefing materials in digital form** upon request to us via Dr. Boege's e-mail address. They are free of charge...