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Health and Government Operations  
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Government Operations  
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Public Health and  
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**Support - House Bill 1473: Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network**

Dear Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Dumais, and members of the Economic Matters Committee,

HB 1473 would establish a workgroup on establishing a network of science, industry and technology experts to exchange, evaluate, and report on state-of-the-art and evidence-based data and information, and serve as a resource for the state and the public on best practices for effective, efficient and cutting edge solutions to a range of tasks and objectives.

1. The workgroup would be staffed by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), which is developing a campus wide system, process and mechanism for similarly identifying and sharing expertise between and across disciplines, and include policy makers, science researchers, technology developers, and academics from across the state. It would be tasked with identifying and analyzing opportunities and costs to
  - a. Establish and maintain a digital or virtual referral network of groups of experts in science, technology, and industry; and
  - b. Otherwise facilitate open exchange of evidence-based data and information.

There are many times when the ability to identify and connect recognized authorities and thought leaders in science, technology and industry would prove advantageous, and Maryland is fortunate to have many such nationally and internationally experts. We lack, however, a robust mechanism for doing so. The network anticipated to be developed from the workgroup's recommendations could serve as a type of "brain-trust" through which applicable ideas could be accessed, and collaboration encouraged, for informing legislation and policy, agency and department program implementation, and capital expenditures. The network could also be a resource for the private sector. The overall effect would be to firmly establish Maryland, for decades to come, as a national leader across multiple disciplines.

HB1473 allows the State to investigate new ways to support scientific collaboration and stay abreast of the latest data, research, and recommendations experts have to offer. It is important such collaboration remain a priority of the General Assembly. I urge a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Hill, M.D.", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Terri Hill, M.D.