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The Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 3, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Education, Health and Environment Committee
Senate Bill 794 – County Boards of Education – Establishing Regional Career and Technical Education
Schools - Authority

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 794 allows the local school boards on the Eastern Shore to establish a regional career and technology education (CTE) school at Chesapeake College. This bill, in its current form, is what passed the House unanimously and was heard before this Committee last session before we ran out of time Sine Die.

A CTE center located at Chesapeake College would expand the educational opportunities that are on the same level as larger jurisdictions and would allow the counties to pool their resources to offer students an alternative career path and a more qualified candidate in technical fields. This will also provide a benefit to the students in career readiness and begin to fill the workforce gap that is currently in existence collectively in the region.

This bill would also charge the local governments to develop a MOU to give the local school boards flexibility in their participation in the regional tech school that provides governance, operation, financing and maintenance.

Senate Bill 794 has support of the Eastern Shore Delegation and Chesapeake College along with ABC, Maryland Asphalt Association, MTBMA, MBIA and the Independent Electrical Contractors.

I request the committee's favorable consideration of Senate Bill 794.