



Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 135
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of HB135. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Perseveration of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years. The Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery at UMBC supports this bill because MSAC provides critical funding for artists, arts programming, and arts organizations that enrich the lives of Marylanders and promote intellectual growth and creativity—values that we share.

The Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery supports innovative teaching and learning at UMBC and serves not only students and the campus community, but also the public. The Library Gallery hosts exhibitions, educational, and public programs that promote the arts within the state of Maryland. The gallery's programming is supported by an arts program grant from the MSAC, funding which is critical to our success.

In addition, the library's Special Collections are the repository for the archive of Maryland Traditions, the state's folklife program and a division of MSAC. Funds provided by MSAC have supported a contract archivist position to process and preserve the archive, as well as an internship to support the archivist and promote Maryland Traditions materials to the public. These collections are an important resource for preserving the history and culture of the state of Maryland and are publically accessible thanks to MSAC and UMBC.

Continued support of MSAC is critical to the success of our exhibition and educational programming and our collections. An investment in MSAC is an investment in promoting life-long learning and creativity among Marylanders.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 135.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Dawson