



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Cory V. McCray

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 15, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 453 – *Economic Development – Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 453.

Senate Bill 453 establishes the Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO). Through the program, TEDCO would provide matching funds to local governments, nonprofits, and other eligible applicants for the establishment or expansion of makerspaces in the state. A makerspace is a collaborative community workspace that provides educational, professional, and developmental opportunities to individuals of all ages, and is especially helpful for new and small businesses.

Makerspaces provide access to facilities that many would otherwise go without. These facilities give opportunities to individuals and small businesses that do not have the ability or the finances to access the resources they need to start or grow their ideas. Makerspaces provide tangible economic development and workforce training benefits because they provide individuals with access to experts in a variety of fields meant to nurture an entrepreneurial spirit that is so important in our modern economy. Passage of Senate Bill 453 will advance Maryland's commitment to workforce development and enhance the ability of new organizations to produce sustainable, community-based economic growth and productivity. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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