



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 30, 2022

TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

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

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 453, *Economic Development - Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program*, which will formalize the structure of a Statewide Makerspace Program within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation. The legislation also ensures a minimum level of funding for the program for the next few years, which will allow for the growth of new Makerspace programs around the State.

Since my first visit to Open Works Baltimore City in 2019, I have been hoping to be able to replicate such an exciting program in Montgomery County. In my current capacity as the County's Executive, I have reviewed a number of innovative proposals that would create new opportunities in new industries. Many of them would be perfect candidates for the Makerspace concept.

This legislation reflects an idea whose time has come and, without a program like this, Maryland would not be capitalizing on the strengths it has to compete, regionally and otherwise. I am looking forward to competing for the resources that will be made available under this bill. I am anxious to begin the process of creating a Makerspace in the County, so that our creative and entrepreneurial youth and adults can take advantage of this modern form of manufacturing.

Senate Bill 453 is the vehicle for allowing this to occur. Therefore, I urge the committee to pass this legislation so places like Montgomery County can take advantage of the many benefits it will offer.

cc: Members of the Ways and Means Committee