



6240 Old Dobbin Lane ■ Suite 110 ■ Columbia, MD 21045

March 1, 2023

Hon. Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget & Tax Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 547 Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Guzzone:

The mission of the Howard County Chamber (Chamber) is to accelerate business growth through connections, advocacy, and professional development. As County Chamber, we are proud to have nearly 700 businesses, of all sizes, as members and serve as the county's premiere business membership organization. The Chamber provides greater value to our members by creating opportunities for our business owners and their employees to connect with some of the region's most influential community leaders, business executives, and elected officials.

Our community has realized that access to affordable and dependable high-speed broadband service is essential to meet education, healthcare, public safety, and economic development needs in today's digital world. Howard County communities without robust broadband access are at a digital disadvantage, leaving businesses unable to compete on par with the rest of society. HB 551/ SB 547 will finally create the needed financial incentive for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Counties of Maryland to build out the broadband infrastructure in underserved areas.

For these reasons the Chamber requests a favorable vote for HB 551.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leonardo McClarty'.

Leonardo McClarty, CCE  
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber