



February 27, 2023

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable
Senate Bill 547
Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023
Budget & Taxation Committee
Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee,

The Harford County Chamber of Commerce serves as the premier business advocate in Harford County helping our members connect and thrive to create a vibrant economy across all sectors of our county.

As introduced, Senate Bill 547 creates a five-year moratorium on the sales and use tax for broadband infrastructure equipment. It also ends state taxation of federal broadband grants, maximizing taxpayer investment in these critical infrastructure projects.

Broadband accessibility in certain areas of Harford County is non-existent or minimal. SB 547 will bridge the digital divide and ensure that Harford County residents and businesses are positioned to take advantage of this necessary technology. Harford County employers, schools, community service organizations, and others must increasingly rely on digital access for everyday functions. As such, it is critical now more than ever that Maryland extend broadband access to everyone.

This legislation will put Maryland at the forefront of economic competitiveness, spur business activity across the state and provide jobs and stability. The Harford County Chamber of Commerce values expanding broadband access and therefore respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 547.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Angela M. Rose

Angela M. Rose
President & CEO

2021-22 Board of Directors Officers

Chair: Mary Ann Bogarty
Jarrettsville Federal Savings & Loan
Immediate Past Chair: Lee Tayson
Companion Insurance Agency
Chair Elect: Brianne Baccaro Norris
Weyrich, Cronin & Sorra
Vice Chair-Finance: Chris Stone
E-Moxie
Vice Chair-Administration: Monica Worrell
APG Federal Credit Union

Members at Large

Josh Nelson
Chesapeake Environmental Management
Mike Ray
SURVICE Engineering

Board Members

Chad Arrington
The Kelly Group
Dr. Sean Bulson
Harford County Public Schools
Anthony DiPaula
DiPaula Law
Dr. Theresa Felder
Harford Community College
Terry Grant
Katz Abosch
Andy Guckert
M&T Bank
Meghan Jack
Medstar Health
Mary Hastler
Harford County Public Library
Sarah Karantonis
University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health
Mike Maxwell
MAXED OUT Home Group
Karen Holt
Harford County Office of Community and Economic Development
Eric Rebbert
Peak Partners USA
Dytonia Reed
Baltimore Gas & Electric
Matthew Scales
Visit Harford
Robert Wehland
Freedom Federal Credit Union

President/CEO
Angela Rose