



Regional Additive Manufacturing Partnership of Maryland • 2021 Pulaski Highway, Suite D, Havre de Grace, MD 21078 • www.rampmd.org

To: Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
Maryland General Assembly

Re: SB0781: Economic Development – Regional Additive Manufacturing Partnership of Maryland
Sponsored by Senator Mary-Dulaney James
Hearing February 27, 1 p.m.

IN SUPPORT OF SB0781

Regional Additive Manufacturing Partnership-Maryland (RAMP MD) was chartered by the Maryland Legislature in 2014, to help the business community leverage additive and other digital manufacturing and Industry 4.0 technologies in growing the manufacturing base across Maryland. RAMP MD has established a very successful relationship with the US Army Chemical Biological Center (CBC) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, accessing the state-of-the-art additive manufacturing (3D printing) facilities and expertise at CBC’s Advanced Design & Manufacturing Facility. This successful initiative has provided low-cost access to start-ups and established companies in the region, fostering business and workforce development in the advanced manufacturing domain. This successful relationship provides access to CBC’s 300,000 square foot advanced prototyping facility with a \$30 million dollar investment in advanced machine tools and processes and more importantly hundreds of years of expertise from the staff of over 100 journey persons, master machinists, and technicians.

However, one of the major obstacles for companies adopting these advanced technologies continues to be the development and hiring of the workforce needed. Thus, CBC is considering establishing an advanced manufacturing apprentice program supporting their National Defense mission as well as commercial advanced manufacturing industrial growth in the region and Maryland. This apprentice program would utilize the extraordinary CBC facility and personnel expertise to support critical workforce development of highly trained and qualified manufacturing machinists and technicians addressing a short fall of manufacturing expertise in the region. While the Maryland Charter of RAMP-MD recognizes an education and workforce development provision extending beyond additive manufacturing clarifying through a formal name change from “Additive” to “Advanced” will facilitate RAMP-MD’s ability to support the full Army initiative of workforce development of advanced manufacturing apprentices here in Maryland.

/S/ Chris Cosgrove
Chair, Board of Directors
RAMP-MD