



February 14, 2025

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Budget and Tax Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for Senate Bill 698 – Washington County – Sales and Use Tax Exemption – Target Development Area

Dear Senator Guzzone,

On behalf of the CHiEF board, I write to express our strong support for SB 698. CHiEF has worked in the Hagerstown/Washington County area for decades as a non-profit organization promoting and developing economic opportunities for our area. We developed the Mount Aetna Technology Park for very specific types of companies. As it turns out our goals align exactly with Governor Moore's recent commitment to his "Decades" program.

Our intention and belief that with the passage of this bill we can move forward with a very strong package to recruit companies that would bring modern manufacturing and jobs that would align with strategic opportunities to grow and diversify Maryland's economy. Our analysis indicates that the State could recoup any foregone tax receipts within a relatively short period of time. This does not account for the economic activity and other financial benefits to the State.

We strongly encourage your committee and your support for SB698.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew A. Serafini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew A. Serafini – CHiEF Board Member