



5STARR ENTERPRISE LLC

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Feb 18, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
131 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Vice-Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
131 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: VOTE YES ON HB648 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – BUSINESS DIVERSITY INCUBATOR PROGRAM

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

As the CEO of 5Starr Enterprise, a small business based in Maryland, I am writing in strong support of **HB648**, the Business Diversity Incubator Program Bill. This essential legislation will provide much-needed support to small businesses, particularly in historically underserved communities, by improving access to funding, mentorship, and the infrastructure needed to foster sustainable business growth.

At 5Starr Enterprise, we have firsthand experience with the challenges that many small businesses face when trying to scale. Securing capital, building networks, and navigating the entrepreneurial landscape can be daunting—especially for minority-owned businesses. HB648 offers a proactive solution by establishing business incubators that will provide critical investment and guidance to help startups and small enterprises succeed in Maryland.

This bill is not just about economic development—it is about **creating equitable opportunities** for business owners who have traditionally faced systemic barriers. By voting in favor of **HB648**, you are supporting Maryland's commitment to fostering a **diverse, competitive, and thriving** business environment.

I urge you to support this initiative and help make Maryland a leader in **inclusive economic growth**.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to empowering small businesses in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KT', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Kendrick R. Tilghman
CEO, 5Starr Enterprise