

February 10th, 2026

Esteemed members of the Maryland General Assembly,

My name is Mickie Chandra and I am proud to be a long-time resident of the great state of Maryland. Through my work as an economist and educator I ultimately serve my communities as an advocate. As a member of the Maryland Blockchain Association (MDBA) I served on the Maryland Task Force on Blockchain & Innovative Tech since its inception in July 2025. My testimony is provided to share my experience and sentiments on this topic, and ultimately, to ask for your support in passing legislation this session for the establishment of the official state of MD Digital Asset and Blockchain Technology Task Force.

To describe MDBA for newcomers, we are real people and businesses that are taking steps towards economic development and security for Maryland. The Task Force on Blockchain and Innovative Technology formed in July 2025 is a community within MDBA, and has been operating as a public-private partnership aimed at exploring, promoting, and responsibly integrating emerging technologies across Maryland. We are also ambassadors for our local communities, and share knowledge on how blockchain and the possibilities that come with it can be brought home and applied to our local communities.

Home for me is Montgomery County. Within our local economy I see many avenues of growth that can be unlocked and unleashed by the power of decentralized digital ledger (aka blockchain). There exist digital solutions to map a production or process, create efficiencies by alleviating existing bottlenecks and high cost implementation, and ultimately provide the mechanisms to support enforcement in solving a public issue or bringing forward a public good. I see the following spectrum for how blockchain might evolve:

1. Serving existing needs: These are current rules and regulations that have serious bottlenecks impeding enforcement. These are needs where we simply do not use the available tools, process, or protocols to successfully serve the population. This is where we find low hanging fruit and easy wins to better serve businesses and residents.
2. Entertaining the possibilities: This path recognizes the potential growth businesses, institutions, communities, and families can realize if they adopted blockchain systems at home and work. There are ample use cases in this category. Examples include mapping out a chain of custody that is direly needed to transport hazardous waste, privacy and security for sensitive populations including children and youth, tracking growth and learning needs of students in K-12 education.
3. Seeking higher goals: We start building for growth with higher goals and ideas in mind, and then find existing frameworks and blockchain solutions to build towards those goals. We can employ blue-sky thinking for mission driven and oriented growth. Academia and industry alike would be well served.

The first one can be seen as a category for low hanging fruit, and the last one describes the actualization of mission and better prospects for growth and livelihood for all Marylanders. Our

citizens need the vote of confidence and a formal response from our leaders signaling that the state of Maryland recognizes the opportunities with blockchain and digital assets and is ready to support its foundations and growth. A necessary first step, and the reason for my testimony, is the creation of the Digital Asset and Blockchain Technology Task Force to conduct analysis on the expansion of blockchain technologies and make recommendations regarding its use and regulation.

Blockchain is no longer a nascent technology. It is at our doorstep, extending an invitation to a myriad of possibilities to expand our individual and collective opportunities for growth, and can support businesses, families, and communities across Maryland. We can and must seize upon these innovative technologies to expand opportunities for growth and development across sectors in this great state. Please vote to establish the official state of MD Digital Asset and Blockchain Technology Task Force.

Sincerely,

Mickie Chandra

Maryland Blockchain Association, Task Force on Blockchain & Innovative Technology