



March 9, 2026

Delegate Marc Korman, Chairman
House Environment & Transportation Committee
251 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Md. 21401

Reference: HB - 1230 PG-MC 102-26 (Procurement Modernization)

Dear Chairman, Korman:

It has come to my attention that the Environment and Transportation Committee will hear public comments on HB 1230 (Procurement Modernization) being favored by both Montgomery and Prince George's Counties as they weigh to modernize their procurement programs to increase participation and spend with local certified diverse suppliers or Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) certified by various state and county jurisdictions. This legislation is written in a thoughtful way to optimize said MBE spend due to projections of \$4.8 billion over the next six years, to be spent on capital improvements programs, including \$715,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.

I am pleased to present this letter of support for House Bill 1230, as president of Maryland Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA). The MWMCA was founded in 2002 and operates as a trade association for construction and building material commodity trades throughout the DMV. We are headquartered in Baltimore City, Maryland and advocate for total social economic engineering inclusion in all segments of government and private procurement. Our world class website, known as www.mwmca.org currently has 26,000 e-subscribers that receive our weekly e-newsletter and daily e-alerts informing our members and e-subscribers of various new procurement opportunities and events related to minority and women's business interests.

MWMCA favors HB- 1230 because it targets administrative updates to modernize WSSC's procurement statute and strengthen local and small business participation. The bill expands opportunities for small and local Maryland businesses by providing tiered preferences that move beyond small, local businesses and include businesses that are not small but have 25% of their employees residing within Prince George's and Montgomery counties jurisdiction. It provides preferences, to a lesser degree, for Maryland businesses not in the service area. It promotes local hiring and workforce development by authorizing the Commission to adopt regulations promoting local hiring and commitment and

recruitment, apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, skills training and workforce development, and workforce residency and local economic activity reporting

HB-1230 updates the vendor registration by allowing WSSC to accept certifications from Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and other public agencies. It authorizes self-certification where appropriate and eliminates cumulative paperwork while maintaining program integrity. Simply put it, it makes it easier for one's business to be qualified to compete. Another enhancement is that it provides opportunities for veteran owned and disabled owned businesses by allowing WSSC to provide preferences for those concerns and it supports veteran entrepreneurship and aligns with best practices across the jurisdictions

Another key area of the bill is that it provides administrative flexibility to rename the office. Currently the existing statue duties of the Office of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion will remain unchanged, however the bill will provide the authority to rename the office, if necessary, to ensure the title and function remains durable and accurately reflects its business and economic development activities. Any potential rebranding would be conducted through a public process via regulation, ensuring stakeholder input and Commission oversight. Finally, it modernizes business participation programs by renaming "Local Small Business Enterprise Program" to the business participation program to reflect the broader participation scope. That ensures small, local businesses continue to receive the highest preference.

HB-1230 does not amend, eliminate, limit, or otherwise modify the MBE program. These changes are intended to enhance Small, Local Business program to complement and operate alongside existing MBE program to maximize opportunities for Small, Local and diverse businesses.

For those reasons just recited, MWMCA request a favorable decision from this committee by approving HB-1230!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne R Frazier, Sr.', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Sincerely
Wayne R Frazier, Sr.
President