

February 12, 2020

**Testimony of Jeffrey L. Diggs, Sr. in Support of SB 442:
Public-Private Partnership Agreements - Minority Business Enterprise Programs**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

Senate Bill 442 proposes to restore the applicability of Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program to public-private partnerships (P3s).

As a certified small business owner in Maryland, I am keenly aware of the benefits of public-private partnerships. P3s enable greater private sector participation, expertise, and mitigate risk for state agencies engaged in large infrastructure projects.

Restoring the application of the MBE program to P3s would benefit my Minority Business Enterprise for several reasons. Restoring the application of the MBE program to P3s would benefit my Minority Business Enterprise for several reasons. One of which is the bottom line approach private business models bring. We can't afford to cost over runs, therefore must work most effectively and efficiently as possible and bring innovation to maximize any profits we can envision, thus, the public/taxpayers benefit. As the Principal of Lynn Tyler Consulting, LLC, I bring experience as an employee of the private and public sector, and the primary reason of becoming a business owner. I have felt the pains of being a public sector employee and couldn't effect change because of policy, yet as a employee of a private sector company I could perform a task that not only saved the public money, the private company made a profit.

After the completion of the 2017 Business Disparities in the Maryland Market Area study, Chapter 340 of the 2017 Maryland Code reauthorized the MBE program for five more years. However, it did not restore the application of the program to P3s. Senate Bill 442 would restore that application, enabling my Minority Business Enterprise to thrive in Maryland.

Thus, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 442.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey L. Diggs, Sr.