



***Our Strength is in Our Numbers
Our Power is in Our Unity***

February 12, 2020

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chairman
Senator Jim Rosapepe Vice Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Public-Private Partnership Agreements - Minority Business Enterprise Program Legislation – HB 442

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

We apologize for the conflict in scheduling not allowing us to be there in person today. On behalf of the members of The Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce (GBBCC), we are in support of SB442- Public-Private Partnership Agreements - Minority Business Enterprise Program. Simply put, this is a good piece of legislation.

The GBBCC was founded 14 years ago this month to address the issues dealing with the lack of opportunity for African American small business. This legislation is intended to open doors of opportunity and eliminate barriers to minority business in the untapped contracting and procurement area of Public-Private Partnerships. Until now the GBBCC and most of our member were unaware that these contracts were being awarded without MBE goals. We support this legislation that would expand contracting opportunities for our members and all other certified Minority Business Enterprises. It is our hope that it will also attract additional MBE vendors to the contract and procurement opportunities previously unavailable to them in Public-Private Partnerships.

As a Chamber our organization's mission is to advocate for good legislation. On behalf of the membership of the Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce, we request a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 442.

Sincerely,

Kendrick Tilghman

Kendrick Tilghman, President

Debra Keller-Greene

Debra Keller-Greene, Chairperson