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John T. "Jack" Lyburn
Director

February 14, 2020

Honorable Dereck E. Davis
Chairman
231 House Office Building
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Davis:

I am writing to ask for your support of House Bill 851 which contains changes to the existing Partnership for Workforce Quality program (PWQ). The modifications suggested in the Bill will result in more flexibility for businesses to use the program and increased training opportunities for employees.

PWQ provides a matching training grant to improve the competitiveness of mid-sized manufacturing and technology companies. Grants can be used to increase the skills of existing workers that will ultimately result in a better production process and improve employee productivity. Key to HB 851 is the change that will allow employers to use the training funds for new hires. Research shows that training a new employee is one of the most expensive tasks a company undertakes.

As you know, state funding for local economic development programs is crucial. We rely on Commerce to partner with us to ensure companies remain in the state, and specifically in Carroll County. PWQ is a very important tool that Carroll County has utilized with this goal in mind.

Maryland offers many advantages to companies looking to locate business operations. It is imperative that we continue to remain competitive with other states that are investing heavily in economic development and looking within Maryland's borders for participants.

For these reasons, I ask for your consideration and support of House Bill 851.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John T. Lyburn, Jr." in a cursive style.

John T. Lyburn, Jr.
Director, Economic Development