March 11, 2020

Chairman Davis
House Office Building
Economic Matters Committee
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

We are writing to wholeheartedly support House Bill 0804 to establish a workgroup to study Maryland's Emerging Digital Economy. Maryland needs to holistically examine the impacts and opportunities that Industry 4.0 – the anticipated technological revolution that will transform sectors such as manufacturing, 3D printing, and artificial intelligence – will bring to Maryland's economy and citizenry. We are facing a transformation of many traditional industries that will add jobs to the economy we have not yet considered, and will eliminate jobs that many Marylanders rely upon. This workgroup will bring clarity and a holistic set of recommendations for government, industry, and academia to act upon. This workgroup will also have the opportunity to view the potential overlap and points of collaboration between sectors in implementing Industry 4.0.

When Maryland leaders authored SB889/HB1060 in 2014 to establish the Regional Additive Manufacturing Partnership of Maryland (RAMP MD), they envisioned Maryland as the nation's center of excellence for additive manufacturing, and RAMP MD as the catalyst for industry growth. RAMP MD's work is to build a network of resources for the additive manufacturing industry and put those tools in the hands of Maryland's businesses.

Advanced manufacturing represents a significant opportunity for the state of Maryland to be at the leading edge of a "disruptive" technology that is reshaping how we live, work, and play. With the integration of new tools of digital revolution, additive manufacturing (also called 3D printing) will continue to expand and contribute to Maryland's economy. Thank you for sponsoring this legislation as RAMP MD will greatly benefit from its enactment.

Sincerely,

Dave Wheatley
Chairman of the Board
RAMP MD

Rick Decker
Executive Director
RAMP MD