



TO: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Michele Guyton

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
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DATE: March 11, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** – House Bill 804 – *Workgroup to Study Maryland's Emerging Digital Economy*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support with amendment** for House Bill 804.

House Bill 804 establishes the Workgroup to Study Maryland's Emerging Digital Economy. The workgroup is charged with a wide variety of issues to examine and on which to make recommendations, such as higher education curriculums, related professional research, public-private partnerships, apprenticeships, State grant funding levels, new tax credits, and the State's current statutory and regulatory authority over manufacturing.

Appropriately, the listed members to the Workgroup include the Maryland Manufacturing Advisory Board, the Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland, Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and Regional Additive Manufacturing Partnership of Maryland. Surprisingly, with over 450 life science and technology member companies developing innovative solutions that save, protect, and improve lives, the Maryland Tech Council was excluded from membership on the Workgroup. Maryland is home to over 500 biotech companies and 2,700 life science firms, many of which engage in biomanufacturing, which uses biological systems to construct commercially-relevant biomaterials to add to medicine, industrial applications and the food and beverage industry. Among our information technology companies, many are providing digital services, such as cybersecurity, telecommunications, and cloud-computing, that support the work of manufacturers.

As the primary association specifically representing the life sciences and technology industries, the Maryland Tech Council deserves to be a statutory member of the Workgroup to Study Maryland's Emerging Digital Economy. As such, the Maryland Tech Council urges the House Economic Matters Committee to give House Bill 804 a favorable report with amendments to include the Council as a member of the Workgroup.

For more information call:

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