



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Ned Carey

FROM: Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 26, 2020

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 888 – *Consumer Protection – Security Features for Connected Devices*

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 **opposition** for House Bill 888.

House Bill 888 requires a manufacturer of a “connected device” to equip the device with a reasonable “security feature”. A connected device is considered to have a reasonable security feature if it is equipped with a means for authentication outside of a local area network that includes either a preprogrammed password that is unique to each connected device or a process that requires the user to generate a new means of authentication before the user is granted access for the first time.

Though MTC recognizes the importance of protecting online consumer data and providing certain security features for connected devices, the matters that House Bill 888 addresses should and must be resolved on the federal level. Meaningful consistent compliance by industry would be more reliably satisfied with a uniform nationwide solution. This bill would have the effect of imposing millions of dollars of compliance costs on tech businesses and would harm the State’s economy more than it would protect consumer privacy. **To that end, MTC supports the need to address the issues raised by House Bill 888 and an amendment to submit these issues for further consideration and recommendations reached by consensus of a workgroup composed of all relevant stakeholders.**

For more information call:

Richard A. Tabuteau
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000