



TO: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Terri L. Hill

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

DATE: March 11, 2020

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1473 – *Workgroup on Establishing a Science and Technology Best Practices and Innovation Network*

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** for House Bill 1473.

House Bill 1473 establishes a workgroup to identify and analyze options for establishing and maintaining a network of experts in science, technology, and industry to facilitate voluntary collaboration; facilitate the open exchange of state-of-the-art and evidence-based data and information; inform State policy and practices; and promote solution development and decision making based on sound science, innovation, and best practices.

This proposed Workgroup appears to be the first step toward creating an innovation network. For example, the Illinois Innovation Network (<https://www.illinoisinnovation.com/>), which is managed by a statutorily authorized entity, provides a common platform (i.e. network) through which startups, innovation-driven enterprises, service providers, research and academic institutions, and community leaders connect, share ideas, and offer tools and resources to accelerate the growth of businesses and industries in their state.

According to the Department of Commerce, Maryland is 1st in high-tech's share of all businesses, 1st in concentration of computer scientists, 2nd in innovation among the states, and 4th in biopharma clusters. Passage of House Bill 1473 would only help Maryland press its advantage by developing a network of experts in science, technology, and industry. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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