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**CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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January 21, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley  
Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 26 – Partnership for Workforce Quality (PWQ) Program -- Alterations

Dear Senator Kelley:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Senate Bill 26 for alterations to the PWQ program. This program provides matching grants to employers for workforce training. Specifically, the bill will allow training for new employees as well as incumbent employees and establishes limits of funding to certain employers.

In economic development, providing an ample supply of trained workforce to employers is Job One. The PWQ Program is an important tool that assists in upgrading and improving the skills of Maryland's workforce. PWQ provides reimbursable grants that match investments made by manufacturing and technology companies in employee training.

This bill accomplishes several things to improve the ability of the program to assist manufacturing or technology-based businesses. By expanding the program to include costs related to training new employees, employers will be able to hire workers who might not otherwise have qualified due to a skills gap. The bill also eliminates a funding gap for mid-sized businesses.

We respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 26.

Sincerely,



Christopher P. Moyer  
Director

Cc: Stephen Hershey, Senator  
Jason Gallion, Senator  
Kevin Hornberger, Delegate  
Michael Griffith, Delegate  
Kelly Schulz, Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce  
Rhonda Ray, Director, Office of Policy & Research, Maryland Department of Commerce

Teresa Reilly, Delegate  
Steven Arentz, Delegate  
Jefferson Ghrist, Delegate  
Jay Jacobs, Delegate