



TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Charles E. Sydnor, III

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

DATE: March 11, 2020

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 857 – *Facial Recognition Services – Moratorium*

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 Senate Bill 857.

Senate Bill 857 provides that neither a unit of government nor a person may use facial recognition technology, or any information derived therefrom. While MTC respects and even agrees with the Sponsor's concerns relating to risks associated with the use (or misuse) of facial recognition technology, there are innumerable advantages to the continued development of this innovation. In some ways, facial recognition technology actually bolsters personal privacy, such as with unlocking bank and financial accounts or phones and other electronic devices. The complete, initial, or partial moratorium on the use of the technology could have the effect of impeding development and investment in Maryland information technology companies working on advancing this innovation.

As such, MTC urges the Senate Finance Committee to give Senate Bill 857 an unfavorable report.

For more information call:

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