



February 28, 2020

**Position: Testimony in Support of House Bill 343– Maryland Technology Infrastructure Program**

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Brian Darmody, and I am CEO of the Association of University Research Parks (AURP). AURP represents university, federal, municipal and corporate research parks and innovation districts in the US, Canada and around the world. We have members in 42 states and 13 countries. We are a private, nonprofit trade organization, receiving no operating money from the government.

We just opened our AURP ‘HQ2’ in the Discovery District in Prince George’s County at the University of Maryland, College Park, supplementing the AURP headquarters at U of Arizona Tech Park.

I am also a former member of the Maryland Technology Council Board of Directors and a long time administrator at UMD, where I worked on state innovation policies, among other projects, such as the creation of TEDCO.

The state of Maryland has the largest number of AURP members in the nation, including UM College Park, UMB BioPark, BW Tech at UM Baltimore County, PIC MC at Montgomery College, and Viva White Oak, adjacent to FDA headquarters. This should not be surprising, given the state’s enormous research and development infrastructure, with major research universities, the nation’s largest collection of federal labs and many technology companies.

Maryland is also home to planners and developers that are building communities of innovation across the US, including Whiting Turner, Clark Construction, Ayers St. Gross and Wexford Science and Technology company.

This bill would help support large scale place making projects that establish a geographic district to attract talent and foster collaboration, precisely the strategy that has been used by

other AURP members and others states, including Research Triangle in NC, Cambridge Innovation Center in Boston and Stanford University Research Park in California.

One minor suggestion:

The bill's single focus on cyber security and bio technology, however, might inadvertently exclude some other technology sectors in Maryland where our state is a national leader due to the presence of federal, private or academic technology clusters across the state.

For example, Maryland has substantial research and tech resources in many other areas, including Beltsville Ag Research Campus in Beltsville, the nation's largest ag research facility, NASA Goddard, one of the country's premier remote sensing and satellite facility, Pax River a major aerospace hub and the Maryland Clean Energy Center, focused on green technologies. Maryland is also home to private major defense contractors, including Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman and many small and medium technology companies.

Accordingly, amending the bill to include ag tech, green tech, space tech and defense tech would help to ensure Maryland was leveraging the great research talent and technology clusters across the state.

In conclusion, HB 343 is a great step forward in ensuring place-based technology development is accelerated and supported in Maryland.

Thank you.

Brian Darmody

CEO

Association of University Research Parks (AURP)

7761 Diamondback Drive

College Park, MD 20749