

**LEGISLATIVE POSITION**

**SUPPORT**

**Senate Bill 444/ House Bill 658**

**Transforming Manufacturing in a Digital Economy Workgroup (Making It In Maryland)**

**Senate Finance Committee/ House Economic Matters Committee**

**February 16th, 2021/ February 17th, 2021**

Dear Committee Chair and Members:

I am writing this letter to express my support for **Senate Bill SB444/HB 658; entitled, Transforming Manufacturing in a Digital Economy Workgroup (Making it in Maryland).**

As CEO of the Baltimore County based, international manufacturing company, Lion Brothers Co., and Vice Chair of the nonprofit Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland, I am keenly aware of the manufacturing industry's increasing need for reliance on digital technologies in order for companies to be competitive locally, nationally and globally. And I speak from experience when I tell you that adoption of these new and emerging technologies brings the challenge of identifying a skilled workforce to operate in this new digital environment.

Investing and innovating to provide workers with new skills is an urgent and indispensable response to the labor market challenges due to emerging technological changes and advancements.

Manufacturers will need to partner with industry leaders, education stakeholders and others to explore these recommendations and other new solutions to fully prepare Maryland's employers and workforce.

It is for these reasons why the passage of Senate Bill 444/ House Bill 658 are so critical. I write in support of Senate Bill 444/House Bill 658 and respectfully request this committee to issue a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Susan J. Ganz*

Susan Ganz

CEO, Lion Brothers Co.

