



**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).**

For years, RMI has been at the forefront of making Maryland's manufacturing ecosystem aware of the trend towards the development and adoption of digital technologies in the manufacturing industry, otherwise known as Industry 4.0. This technological revolution is creating an opportunity for transformative economic growth. However, along with the opportunity comes the challenge of developing a workforce with the skills and confidence to work alongside these new technologies and thrive in a digital workplace.

Together, innovation and a skilled workforce can render Maryland's manufacturing companies extremely competitive on the national and global fronts. But it will require collaboration among the various manufacturing stakeholders - including business leaders, education and training entities and State representatives - to identify the technologies impacting transformation, explore work skills and needed training of the workforce and employ solutions to support manufacturers' transition into the new digital economy. Thus, the formation of a workgroup is important for success.

It is for these reasons that 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,

Ken Sanchez
President, Chesapeake Specialty Products