



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Chris West

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

DATE: February 16, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 444 – *Transforming Manufacturing in a Digital Economy Workgroup (Making It in Maryland)*

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 **support** for Senate Bill 444.

Senate Bill 444 establishes the Workgroup to Study Maryland's Emerging Digital Economy. The workgroup is charged with a wide variety of issues to examine and on which to make recommendations, such as higher education curriculums, related professional research, public-private partnerships, apprenticeships, State grant funding levels, new tax credits, and the State's current statutory and regulatory authority over manufacturing.

Maryland is home to over 500 biotech companies and 2,700 life science firms, many of which engage in biomanufacturing, which uses biological systems to construct commercially-relevant biomaterials to add to medicine, industrial applications and the food and beverage industry. Among our information technology companies, many are providing digital services, such as cybersecurity, telecommunications, and cloud-computing, that support the work of manufacturers. As the primary association specifically representing the life sciences and technology industries, MTC appreciates the sponsor's inclusion of the Council in the membership of the Workgroup. The Council is committed to the objectives outlined in the charges of the Workgroup as reflected in Senate Bill 444 and urges a favorable report.

For more information call:

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