



January 25, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chairman, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support Senate Bill 19

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

BIO is the world's largest trade association representing biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations. BIO members are involved in the research and development of innovative healthcare, agricultural, industrial and environmental biotechnology products. The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) would like to express our **support** for Senate Bill 19, legislation to change the eligibility and the tax calculation for the state's Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Program.

Preserving tax incentives for the biotechnology industry helps the Maryland economy.

- The bioscience industry in Maryland is a strategic and growing technology component of the state economy. Bioscience innovation in health, energy, and agriculture support state & local communities in a variety of ways ranging from job creation, construction, tax revenues, and other economic impact values. Access to capital is especially vital for R&D-intensive bioscience companies facing long time horizons to guide innovations through to commercial outcomes and steady revenues. Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credits can help grow the more than 39,000 bioscience jobs in Maryland.
- The goals of the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Program are to: (a) increase the number of Maryland-based companies developing biotechnology products in the state; (b) increase overall investments in the biotechnology sector; and (3) increase individual investors who invest in Maryland-based biotechnology companies.

Senate Bill 19 Will Ensure that the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit Program is sustainable and effective.

- The current Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Program is a very attractive and highly sought after program. Provisions in Senate Bill 19 expand access so that more companies can take advantage of the program.
- The provisions in Senate Bill 19 will help to strengthen the bioscience community in Maryland so that it continues to be a driver of the state's economy.

Maryland is a national leader in biotechnology because of the continuing cooperation between policymakers, academic research organizations, and our companies large and small to advance this vital technology sector. Support for Senate Bill 19 would reassure companies that Maryland state government is partnering with them to improve the overall economic vitality in the state through company creation and employment opportunities for its citizens. We strongly urge support for this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Chandhok
Eastern Region, State Government Affairs Director
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
1201 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20024