



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass, Chair
Members, House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Regina T. Boyce

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

DATE: February 17, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 650 – *Minority Business Enterprises – Sexual and Gender Minorities (Imari’s Business Pride Act)*

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 House Bill 650.

House Bill 650 expands the definition of “socially and economically disadvantaged individual” for the purpose of certifying minority business enterprises (MBEs) to include a member of a sexual or gender minority, including a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender individual, regardless of race or ethnicity. MTC recognizes the challenges often faced by sexual and gender minorities as they seek to establish and expand businesses and compete in the marketplace. Recognizing them under the definition of “socially and economically disadvantaged individual”, thereby enabling them to be certified as an MBE, will provide an important avenue for overcoming the economic challenges they face in the marketplace. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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