TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 753

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - CYBERSECURITY

SAM ELY
PERCIVAL ENGINEERING

POSITION: FAVORABLE

March 16, 2022

Chairwoman McIntosh, Vice Chairman Chang, and Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 1334.

The Cyber Workforce Accelerator will leverage existing infrastructure in the Departments of Commerce, Education and Labor and will build on current educational programs and workforce training assets in the state. This Bill will provide the necessary resources to support the urgent and growing cybersecurity needs across Maryland.

On any given day, there are more than 22,000 unfilled cybersecurity jobs in Maryland, affecting not only our industry, but cybersecurity functions that are embedded in other industries. These vacancies create security vulnerabilities in our critical infrastructure and essential services, but we don't have applicant pools with the right skills to fill our open positions.

As our company continues to expand its position in cyber security – supporting defense and national security markets – we rely heavily on MTIP for hiring Maryland college students as well as recently transitioning military members for both internships and full-time positions. For students that join us as interns, we often use the duration between internship and graduation to setup the appropriate security clearances – an essential qualification to fully support our efforts. For transitioning military members, we rely on MTIP to support our focus on recruiting, employing, and retaining our nation's veterans – which represent roughly 35% of Percival's workforce. MTIP funding ensures that our company can continue to prioritize hiring Maryland candidates and enables us to build a sustainable staffing pipeline.

The Cybersecurity Workforce Accelerator would provide an infusion of resources to impactful training programs and will help remove barriers to build a skilled and diverse cybersecurity talent pipeline. By supporting and investing in this Bill and the Cyber Workforce Accelerator, you will train Marylanders for good paying jobs with high growth potential. Our organization urges a favorable report. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.