



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Lily Qi

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

DATE: March 9, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1384 – *Economic Development – Industry 4.0 Technology Grant Program (Maryland Manufacturing Innovation Act of 2022)*

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 1384.

House Bill 1384 would establish a grant program in the Department of Commerce to provide grants to small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises and to assist those manufacturers with implementing new Industry 4.0 technology or related infrastructure; and requires the Governor to appropriate \$5,000,000 in the annual budget for the program.

As a member of the Workgroup to Study the Transformation of Manufacturing in Maryland's Emerging Digital Economy we support House Bill 1384. Maryland is home to over 4,000 manufacturers. We are a national leader in innovative industries, including cybersecurity and biohealth, and we possess all the right resources for advanced manufacturing, distribution, and logistics. For Maryland manufacturers to grow at a meaningful rate, we need to help them adopt technologies that allow them to grow faster, and grant programs like the one House Bill 1384 establishes would be a step in the right direction. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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