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March 7, 2022

To: Members of the House Ways & Means Committee

From: Michael Galiazzo, President, Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland

Re: Favorable – HB1384

On behalf of the manufacturing members of the Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland (RMI), I am writing in support of HB 1384 and the amendments offered by Delegate Qi.

Since the 1800s, we have experienced three industrial revolutions. Each was powered by a disruptive new technology: the mechanics of the steam engine, the innovation of the assembly line, and the speed of the computer. The reason they were called industrial “revolutions” was that the innovation that drove them didn’t just improve productivity and efficiency a little bit – it completely revolutionized how goods were produced and how work was done.

We are now in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, aka Industry 4.0, which revolutionizes the automation, monitoring, and analysis of supply chains through smart technology. Industry 4.0 is powered by the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) and cyber-physical systems. Industry 4.0 makes everything a supply chain “smart” – from smart manufacturing and factories to smart warehousing and logistics.

Ultimately, Industry 4.0 is a major part of any company’s digital transformation and increased capacity to be globally competitive

Last year, the General Assembly passed into law the creation of a legislative workgroup on the Transformation of Manufacturing in a Digital Economy – Making it in Maryland. The purpose of the workgroup is to expedite the adoption of 4.0 technologies by Maryland manufacturers and to identify the work skills required in these new work environments.

HB 1384 is about being prepared. We all know about being prepared. We know being prepared is what we should do, like fixing bridges before they collapse.

HB 1384 bill is a bridge to the future. As we think about our world today, the challenges of fighting aggression, and our need to be prepared, revolutionizing our manufacturing capacity simply makes sense.

I ask for a favorable vote for this bill with the amendments offered by Delegate Qi.