



305 Broadmoor Road, Baltimore, MD 21212, 443-844-0047, stacey@smithcande.com

March 13, 2023

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee
11 Bladen Street
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone and Budget and Taxation Committee Members:

I am writing in support of SB0906 introduced by Senator Rosapepe to create a matching grant program for SME manufacturers.

Over the past 3.5 years I have consulted with the Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland which has helped me gain a greater understanding of the value of manufacturing to our state's economy and the lives of individuals and families in Maryland. I have also seen firsthand the challenges so many of our manufacturers face and how technically advanced and fiercely competitive the industry has become nationally and globally. To survive, thrive and continue to provide family-sustaining jobs for our state's residents, manufacturers desperately need the support SB0906 provides for the purchase, implementation and related employee training related to Industry 4.0 technology.

Manufacturing is a pathway to a stable quality of life for Marylanders of varying education level, economic status, race, nationality and gender. It is my request that you support this bill which will help ensure an increase in productivity, efficiency and competitiveness for our manufacturers and the economic vitality for households and communities across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stacey Smith'.

Stacey Smith
President