

**SB549\_USM\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Andy Clark

Position: FAV



**SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**  
**Senate Bill 549**  
**Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund**  
**(Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)**  
**March 1, 2023**  
**Favorable**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our position on Senate Bill 549. The bill establishes the ***Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program*** within the Department of Commerce. The program awards grants to universities and projects that, in collaboration with private industry partners, offer significant economic impact.

As confirmed in a recent report on Maryland Competitiveness, performed in response to a Joint Chairmen's Report from the 2022 General Assembly, "***Maryland needs to be proactive and develop a comprehensive strategy to spur stronger high-tech industry and innovation-led growth, make the needed investment to execute that growth, engage industry and diverse communities, and act quickly to remain competitive with other states in attracting and retaining industry and talent.***"

Senate Bill 549 could provide much-needed, catalytic capacity to the research engine at the base of innovation-led growth and the training ground for tomorrow's innovative workforce. The tie between research and innovation activity and economic impact is critical. The University System of Maryland (USM) has strengthened its focus on research and research-derived economic benefits, including establishing the USM Office of Research and Economic Development, led by USM's first Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development.

As part of \$1.3 billion in research and development activity annually, the USM performs and operates research facilities throughout the state, many of which are supported by federal funds and other investment from outside the state. Investment from Maryland in the state's infrastructure will provide better leverage to obtain these external funds, many of which require matching commitment. Senate Bill 549 recognizes the importance of tailored and targeted support for emerging industries and innovation clusters, economic growth and community development. The USM and competing institutions across the country recognize that successful venture creation and innovation-driven economic development requires the right environment or "place" in which to occur.

We are pleased to support Senate Bill 549 and urge a favorable report.



### **About the University System of Maryland**

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of twelve institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards eight out of every ten bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of twenty-one members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM’s 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country’s largest public online institution.

USM Office of Government Relations - Patrick Hogan: [phogan@usmd.edu](mailto:phogan@usmd.edu)

# **SB 549 - FAV - MML.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

March 1, 2023

**Committee:** Senate Budget and Taxation

**Bill:** SB 549 - Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 549 as it provides grant opportunities to municipal governments to facilitate business development in their jurisdiction. Specifically, local governments are eligible to apply for grants from the newly created Build Our Future Grant Fund.

Municipalities are often the economic, population, and cultural hubs of their region and the grant opportunities provided in this bill will allow for business growth in municipalities to continue. Our members are constantly seeking new grant opportunities to better serve their constituents and are generally well situated to capitalize on these opportunities. Local governments specialize in quality of life issues and promoting business development through infrastructure improvements is something municipalities address regularly.

MML appreciates the Administration for identifying this as a priority and the role local governments play in building a community. As such the League supports the passage of SB 549 and asks for a favorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Theresa Kuhns  
Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.  
Bill Jorch  
Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer  
Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs  
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# **SB0549 -- Economic Development - Build Our Future**

Uploaded by: Brian Levine

Position: FAV



**Senate Bill 549 -- *Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)***  
**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**March 1, 2023**  
**Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports Senate Bill 549 -- *Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)*.

Senate Bill 549 establishes the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund in to provide grant funding of up to \$2 million to defray costs associated with an infrastructure project that supports technology sector innovation. Eligible grant recipients include private companies, nonprofits, local governments, or Maryland colleges and universities.

MCCC supports Senate Bill 549 and efforts to grow Maryland's innovation sector. Maryland, thanks to strong support from policymakers, highly educated workforce, premier higher education system, and proximity to federal government agencies focused on innovation, remains poised to grow its status as a global leader for its innovation economy. However, other states and jurisdictions also recognize the economic potential of an innovation economy and aggressively target efforts to attract these industries and their high-paying jobs.

For example, the Metro Maryland region has long made the life sciences sector a targeted industry for economic growth and job creation. Those efforts have paid off and Maryland has one of the largest and most innovative and successful life sciences sectors in the country. Other innovative industries where Metro Maryland and the entire State have the potential to lead includes quantum computing, green technology, and cybersecurity. Senate Bill 549 is a significant step forward to ensure that Maryland remains competitive in the innovation economy.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports Senate Bill 549 and respectfully requests a favorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*

*Brian Levine | Vice President of Government Affairs  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
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# **SB549-RMC Support Testimony-Build Our Future Grant**

Uploaded by: Charlotte Davis

Position: FAV



*Susan O'Neill, Chair*

*Charlotte Davis, Executive Director*

Testimony in Support of  
Senate Bill 549 – Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund  
(Innovations Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
March 1, 2023

**The Rural Maryland Council supports Senate Bill 549 - Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovations Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023).** This bill establishes the Build Our Future Grant (BOFG) Pilot Program and Fund (BOFGF) in the Department of Commerce to provide grant funding for infrastructure projects intended to support innovation in eligible technology sectors. Under the program, grants of up to \$2.0 million may be awarded to private companies, nonprofits, local governments, or colleges and universities in the State and may be used to defray specified costs associated with an eligible innovation infrastructure project. A grant recipient must provide matching funds of either 200% or 400%, depending on the size of the grant. Additional requirements are placed on grants to and used by colleges and universities. A single entity is limited to \$2.0 million in grants in a fiscal year. Commerce administers BOFGF, which may be used to provide grants and for administrative costs (up to 10%).

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is in support of the BOFG Pilot Program and Fund as it has the potential to have meaningful economic impact across the State. The State has made strides in supporting the diversification of agriculture and rural economies. The proposed state program could support programs such as F3 Tech, which focuses on providing entrepreneurial support to those businesses looking to operate in the agriculture technology field. The F<sup>3</sup> Tech Accelerator Program provides funding and support for early-stage companies to prepare them for potential investment from the F3 Tech Seed Fund, industry partners, and investors. Their industry-specific advisors assist with expediting commercialization, accelerating manufacturing, customer acquisition and revenue development, attracting top innovators that match industry partner commercial needs, investing in innovations with grants, private funding and executive support and evaluating technologies for diversification in other sectors.

Examples of potential areas of rural interest include data analysis, data centers and biotechnology. In the years ahead, data will supplement what farmers know intuitively—and in some cases challenge those assumptions. New products rely on aerial satellite imagery, greenness sensors, soil maps and millions of weather data points. As internet commerce evolves, the needs of Big Data will too. Biotechnology is well established in our state. From fertilizer to pesticides and potential new markets, farmers are mindful of inputs and outputs and look to maximize each. From previous pitch competitions held at the RMC Rural Summit, entrepreneurs are looking for support to provide technological solutions to our agricultural and environmental challenges.

The Council believes the BOFG Pilot Program and Fund could impact businesses across the State. Rural Maryland Council respectfully requests your favorable support of Senate Bill 549.

# **SB549 Support Christy Wyskiel.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christy Wyskiel

Position: FAV

**SB549**

**Favorable**

**TO:** Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Budget and Taxation Committee

**FROM:** Christy Wyskiel  
Director, State Affairs

**DATE:** March 1, 2023

**RE:** Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)

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Johns Hopkins University and Medicine urges a favorable report on **Senate Bill 549 – Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)**.

This bill will create a \$10 million grant program, administered by the Department of Commerce to provide much needed support for infrastructure to support tech-enabled sectors, including life sciences and biotechnology. Eligible uses of the fund include supporting the creation of wet lab space.

With the creation of Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures in 2014, Johns Hopkins has become increasingly focused on the translation and commercialization of discoveries into accessible technologies, products and services for the benefit of society and, in the meantime, spur meaningful economic activity around the university. Smart, targeted investments in innovation can yield real economic results. JHU has invested over \$70 million to build robust innovation infrastructure that start-ups need in those first few critical years; this has resulted in the flow of \$600M in venture capital into Maryland-based startups and the creation of approximately 1,300 Maryland jobs. Approximately 70% of activity is in the life sciences; 30% of activity is in other technology sectors.

Given the density of raw assets originating from our renowned research institutions, among other regional assets, there is no reason we cannot lead as an innovation hub. Maryland is currently ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation for research expenditures and 8<sup>th</sup> in the rate of commercialization. But, without continued attention and investment, we will miss significant growth opportunity to take our raw assets (technologies and talent) and create economic opportunity. We also risk loss of talent, and therefore technology, if Maryland does not demonstrate its commitment to leading in tech and innovation.

As his introduction of this bill indicates, Governor Wes Moore himself recognizes the opportunities associated with such a commitment. When introducing his first budget last month, he noted how far Maryland's GDP growth lags behind Massachusetts, a State that has made considerable investments in its life sciences sector. Massachusetts proves that a strategic investment in the sectors of the future can have widespread benefits for your State.

**Government and Community Affairs**

For the State to develop as a true innovation ecosystem, the funding that companies need to sustain and grow must be available here. Therefore, we urge a favorable report on **Senate Bill 549** to give those companies the tools they need to do so.

Christy Wyskiel

Senior Advisor to the President, Johns Hopkins University for Innovation & Entrepreneurship  
Executive Director, Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures

**BaltimoreCounty\_FAV\_SB0549.pdf**

Uploaded by: D'Andrea Walker

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

JENNIFER AIOSA  
*Director of Government Affairs*

AMANDA KONTZ CARR  
*Legislative Officer*

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG  
*Associate Director of Government Affairs*

**BILL NO.:**            **SB 549**

**TITLE:**                Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)

**SPONSOR:**           The Speaker (By Request – Administration)

**COMMITTEE:**        Budget and Taxation

**POSITION:**           **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                March 1, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 549 – Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023). This legislation would establish a grant pilot program to provide funding for eligible infrastructure projects.

Infrastructure development is crucial to keeping Maryland’s economy on track and providing Marylanders with opportunities for employment. The rapidly growing technology sector has highlighted unique opportunities to provide residents with career paths and boost the State and Local economies. However, bringing these jobs to Maryland requires ensuring the requisite infrastructure in place. As the rate of growth in this sector only increases, funding for infrastructure and significant capital investments has never been more urgent.

SB 549 creates a pilot program that would provide funding for infrastructure projects in the technology sector, ensuring that Maryland does not fall behind during a time of rapid technological growth. This legislation would incentivize the development of new business and employment opportunities which will make Maryland a hub for innovation for years to come.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 549. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).

**SB0549-BT\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: FAV



**MARYLAND**  
*Association of*  
**COUNTIES**

## **Senate Bill 549**

*Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund  
(Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: March 1, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 549. This bill provides counties and other public and private actors with grants to build out certain infrastructure or conduct specialized workforce training to attract a variety of high growth technology focused industries.

Counties are central players in the development and maintenance of infrastructure. Roads, stormwater, wastewater, public transportation, and a broad array of other public services are all developed and maintained at the local level. The vast amount of future infrastructure development will occur largely through county governments or with counties as a central partner in these strategic investments.

SB 549 establishes a program whereby counties and other public and private actors may attain grants to fund infrastructure and workforce development projects. These development and workforce projects will be a foundation of Maryland's advancement in the generation ahead. It is incumbent upon state and county leaders to partner in these strategic investments, as envisioned in SB 549.

Counties fully support the aspirations of SB 549 to enable funding for infrastructure and workforce development projects. Accordingly, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 549.



**SB0549\_FAV\_MTC, BIO\_Eco. Dev. - Build Our Future G**

Uploaded by: Drew Vetter

Position: FAV



TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
The Honorable Moore-Miller Administration

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone  
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Laura Srebnik  
Director, State Government Affairs – Eastern Region  
The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)  
1201 New York Ave., NW Suite 1300  
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206-293-1195 (mobile)

DATE: March 1, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 549 – *Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)*

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On behalf of the Maryland Tech Council (MTC) and the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 549.

Senate Bill 549 would establish the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program to provide grant funding for infrastructure projects intended to support innovation in eligible technology sectors, such as advanced manufacturing, aerospace, cybersecurity, life sciences, defense, and others enumerated in the bill. Numerous MTC and BIO member companies are represented within these sectors; being able to access these funds will help Maryland's economy to grow and be more competitive with surrounding states.

The above-named organizations strongly believe that in order to grow Maryland's innovation economy and be competitive nationally, we must purposefully choose to invest in this ecosystem. Last year, MTC worked with the State to secure \$2.5 million of State funding to launch BioHub Maryland, a program to provide industry-aligned training resources for Maryland residents, including online curriculum and a Maryland-based training facility. Over time, this program will grow Maryland's economy by ensuring that Maryland's life sciences workforce pipeline can sufficiently address the needs of Maryland's life science employers. This is an example of the type of program that can grow Maryland's innovation economy through strategic public investments.

The Moore Administration's proposal to create the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program is a big step in the direction of doing more to invest in our assets and to grow the industry. Companies accessing these funds can invest directly in projects like Secure Compartmentalized Information Facilities, Wet Laboratories, Cyber Ranges, Prototype Manufacturing Centers, and other specialized workforce training, skill certification, or research-related spaces.

We are confident that this pilot program will demonstrate success in leveraging public funding to accelerate private sector growth, and that this program can be a centerpiece of Maryland's economic development strategy into the future.

We urge a favorable report.

**2023-03-01 SB549 Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Hannibal Kemerer

Position: FAV

**ANTHONY G. BROWN**  
*Attorney General*



**CANDACE McLAREN LANHAM**  
*Chief of Staff*

**CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI**  
*Deputy Attorney General*

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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March 1, 2023

**TO:** The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee

**FROM:** Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** SB549 – Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program  
and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023) (**Support**)

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The Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 549, Governor Moore's Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023. This legislation establishes the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program within the Department of Commerce. If enacted, that Program will leverage state funds to incent technology driven infrastructure creation by offering grants to businesses, local governments, non-profits, and institutions of higher education with a matching requirement. Grants of up to \$1 million require at least a 2:1 match from the recipient and grants of up to \$2 million require at least a 4:1 match. Examples of eligible projects include laboratories for quantum computing or biotechnology, Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIFs), cyber ranges, and prototype manufacturing centers. Senate Bill 549 pairs with the existing Innovation Investment Tax Credit (IITC) and Biotechnology Investment Tax Credit (BIITC) to expand access to capital and bring about significant tech-driven investment in Maryland.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 549.

cc: Committee Members

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or [sbrantley@oag.state.md.us](mailto:sbrantley@oag.state.md.us).

# **SB 549 Economic Development – Build Our Future Gra**

Uploaded by: Jim Hughes

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 549**  
**Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund**  
**(Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)**

The University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB), offers this letter in support of SB549. UMB is the state's academic medical center campus with six professional schools, spinning out ten new startups each year based on university faculty intellectual property. As part of our commercialization and investment activities, UMB and our colleagues at UMCP routinely support and work with many entities in the sectors defined in this legislation to grow and expand in Maryland. We understand the unique infrastructure and educational needs of technology-based companies as well as their high economic impact in the State. The majority of these companies operate with very little expendable income in the earliest years but tend to grow exponentially with high dividends to the State once they hit certain inflection points in their commercialization pathway. Fostering the creation of wet laboratories, prototype manufacturing centers, and other infrastructure improvements is critical to the long-term growth and stability of emerging technology firms and will greatly benefit Maryland's economy and competitiveness.

Currently, and for the past several years, there has been almost zero wet lab inventory available in Baltimore, despite a strong and growing life science industry. Both UMB and Johns Hopkins University spin out highly promising companies each year, but a persistent lack of private wet laboratory space in Baltimore and the region hinders expansion. Although the UM BioPark has recently announced a new laboratory building that will provide 250,000 square feet of office, lab and gathering space, this will not fulfill the existing demand in the region.

A lack of available space is not the only hurdle for companies. Once they acquire space, most companies have to invest in improvements to customize leased space to meet their needs. Specialized laboratory facilities are difficult for early-stage companies to finance but are critical for their ultimate growth and success. A matching grant program, such as the one proposed, could assist by providing grants for entities, such as UMB and the BioPark, to build out shared laboratories that provide specialized facilities and equipment for early-stage companies. The grant could also provide much-needed financial support for companies emerging from our State universities to continue their growth in Maryland.

The matching component in SB549 demonstrates Maryland's commitment to support these critical projects while encouraging investment in the state. This is often a critical component of leveraging private investment into large projects.

We believe SB549 2 provides a much-needed resource to enable the Department of Commerce to leverage funds and support the growth the profitable technology sector in Maryland.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Kelly, Esq  
Chief Government Affairs Officer/VP

**SB549\_MACC\_JGreene\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Johntel Greene

Position: FAV



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**SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

**Testimony by  
Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director  
March 1, 2023**

**SB549 – Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland’s 16 community colleges, supports the Senate President’s Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023.

This legislation would create a Build our future grant pilot program which will be used to support infrastructure projects related to innovation in eligible sectors. Our community colleges have been working with private industry and other partners for decades to support the development of Maryland’s workforce to meet the needs of employers, for today and for the future.

This program would expand opportunities directed at innovation, to the benefit of the students we serve, and their local communities.

MACC requests a **favorable** position on **SB549**.



# **SB 549\_Build Our Future Grant\_Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kevin Anderson

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor  
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor  
Kevin A. Anderson | Secretary of Commerce  
Signe Pringle | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

**DATE:** March 1, 2023  
**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 549  
**BILL TITLE:** Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation  
**POSITION:** Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports Senate Bill 549- Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023).

**Background:**

Senate Bill 549 establishes the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund in the Department of Commerce. Through the program Commerce would provide grants for infrastructure projects to support innovation in eligible industry sectors such as advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, life sciences, and quantum. Projects could include Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIFs), wet laboratories, cyber ranges, prototype manufacturing centers, and other specialized workforce training, skill certification, or research-related spaces. Grants would be awarded to assist with the costs incurred to acquire, construct, rehabilitate, install, improve, or equip an eligible project, and the grantees must provide matching funds of at least 200% or 400% of the grant funds. Governor Moore’s proposed FY 2024 budget allowance includes \$10M in Commerce’s operating budget to implement the pilot program.

**Rationale:**

Maryland has long been a leader in the innovation economy. In order to stay competitive, Maryland must continue to invest in innovation in both current and emerging technology sectors. Senate Bill 549 does this by filling a gap in the capabilities of the State’s existing economic development incentive programs. Maryland does not have many economic development grant programs, and those that do exist are smaller or targeted towards large capital projects tied to significant and immediate job creation. The Build our Future Grant program will allow the State to help private companies, local governments, and institutions of higher education fill funding gaps to complete these infrastructure projects that drive long-term innovation which will ultimately result in economic growth for the State.

One goal of this program is to bring more investment to the State and help innovative businesses start up, grow, and adapt here in Maryland. The Build our Future Grant program will do this by supporting the development of critical infrastructure and facilities for research and development, technology commercialization and product development. These grants will help the State leverage and invest in our existing assets to pave the way for Maryland to be a new home to opportunity and economic growth.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 549.

**SB0549(HB0552) - FAV - Economic Development - Buil**

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: FAV



# Maryland Energy Administration

**TO:** Members, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
**FROM:** Paul Pinsky - Director, MEA  
**SUBJECT:** SB 549 - Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)  
**DATE:** March 1, 2023

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## **MEA Position: FAVORABLE**

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) encourages the committee's support of House Bill 552. Maryland is in a critical state in its transition to a clean energy economy. Although technology related to clean energy generation, energy storage, and greenhouse gas abatement and sequestration has advanced greatly, there is still a significant need for innovation, and therefore there is a need to foster innovation in the energy space.

Maryland's goals for the equitable, responsible, and effective build-out of a clean energy grid are bold, but achievable. Still, more can be done to ensure our trajectory toward those goals and innovation has the potential to further accelerate the cleaning of our State's interwoven energy networks while reducing costs. Innovative action is needed to help address the very real challenges that lie ahead.

Shifting goals, changes in population, continuing supply chain disruptions, and the electrification of both buildings and the transportation sector will significantly alter electricity demand and demand patterns over the next two decades. Additionally, the source of our energy is also rapidly evolving. In the near future, substantial offshore wind developments will begin supplying Maryland with fairly tremendous amounts of electricity. Additionally, solar development will continue to expand.

Maryland is ahead of the game when it comes to addressing these and other challenges. We already have in place a process for adapting the planning process for our electricity distribution grids. This will allow our state to prioritize the inclusion of emerging technologies, such as energy storage, distributed energy resources, and vehicle-to-grid, or "V2G", technologies. These resources at our disposal can help ensure grid reliability and resiliency, while promoting equity and reducing the need for other infrastructure investments.

HB 552 will complement these existing efforts, by ensuring that Maryland not only leads on the implementation of energy goals, but also becomes a driving force in the development of the technologies that will make these goals a reality.

For the forgoing reasons, MEA is asking the committee for a **FAVORABLE** report.

# **SB0549\_FAV\_MTC, BIO\_Eco. Dev. - Build Our Future G**

Uploaded by: Laura Srebnik

Position: FAV



TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Members, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
The Honorable Moore-Miller Administration

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter  
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Christine K. Krone  
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Laura Srebnik  
Director, State Government Affairs – Eastern Region  
The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)  
1201 New York Ave., NW Suite 1300  
Washington, DC 20005  
206-293-1195 (mobile)

DATE: March 1, 2023

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 549 – *Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)*

---

On behalf of the Maryland Tech Council (MTC) and the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 549.

Senate Bill 549 would establish the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program to provide grant funding for infrastructure projects intended to support innovation in eligible technology sectors, such as advanced manufacturing, aerospace, cybersecurity, life sciences, defense, and others enumerated in the bill. Numerous MTC and BIO member companies are represented within these sectors; being able to access these funds will help Maryland's economy to grow and be more competitive with surrounding states.

The above-named organizations strongly believe that in order to grow Maryland's innovation economy and be competitive nationally, we must purposefully choose to invest in this ecosystem. Last year, MTC worked with the State to secure \$2.5 million of State funding to launch BioHub Maryland, a program to provide industry-aligned training resources for Maryland residents, including online curriculum and a Maryland-based training facility. Over time, this program will grow Maryland's economy by ensuring that Maryland's life sciences workforce pipeline can sufficiently address the needs of Maryland's life science employers. This is an example of the type of program that can grow Maryland's innovation economy through strategic public investments.

The Moore Administration's proposal to create the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program is a big step in the direction of doing more to invest in our assets and to grow the industry. Companies accessing these funds can invest directly in projects like Secure Compartmentalized Information Facilities, Wet Laboratories, Cyber Ranges, Prototype Manufacturing Centers, and other specialized workforce training, skill certification, or research-related spaces.

We are confident that this pilot program will demonstrate success in leveraging public funding to accelerate private sector growth, and that this program can be a centerpiece of Maryland's economic development strategy into the future.

We urge a favorable report.

**SB 549\_MICUA\_FINAL\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Matt Power

Position: FAV

Written Support

## Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

### *Senate Bill 549 – Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)*

Matt Power, President

[mpower@micua.org](mailto:mpower@micua.org)

March 1, 2023

On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the 56,000 students we serve, we thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support with amendments regarding **Senate Bill 549 – Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)**. We support the Moore Administration to establish the Build Our Future Grant (BOFG) Pilot Program and Fund, of up to \$2.0 million, in the Department of Commerce to provide grant funding for infrastructure projects to nonprofits, colleges and universities, etc., to cover certain costs associated with the project. Under the Program, college and university grant recipients would be required to partner with a private company or offer significant economic impact and the opportunity for entrepreneurship or technological innovation clusters in the State.

MICUA member institutions collaborate with many private entities in their campus community or other statewide private industries. Several MICUA schools are the central hub for their city or town. They thus have formed partnerships with businesses that expand the student experience, foster an environment to encourage creativity and innovation, and create opportunities for entrepreneurship in the local community. SB 549 would provide additional funds to build on the existing relationships at MICUA institutions and spur economic vitality for the State while providing a very engaging student learning experience.

If you have questions or would like additional information about the contents contained within this letter, please contact Irnande Altema ([ialtema@micua.org](mailto:ialtema@micua.org)), Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs.

*For these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for Senate Bill 549.*



AFFILIATES





# **Commissioners of St. Mary's Co support SB 549 - In**

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**COMMISSIONERS OF  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President  
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner  
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

**SB 549- Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program  
and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)**

**SUPPORT**

February 14, 2023

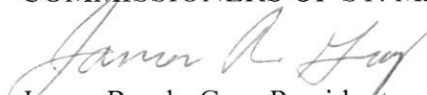
The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone, Chairman  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **SUPPORT SB 549-** Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023) which is being heard in the Budget and Taxation Committee.

We support SB 549 and request a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe it will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,  
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

  
James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf  
T:/Consent/2023/044

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Delegate Todd Morgan  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael Hewitt  
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow  
David Weiskopf, Interim County Administrator/County Attorney  
John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney

**SB 549, FAV, FCG Economic Development, LS23.pdf**

Uploaded by: Victoria Venable

Position: FAV



# FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive

Jodie Bollinger, Acting Executive Director

### **SB 549 - Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)**

**DATE:** March 1, 2023  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
**POSITION:** Support  
**FROM:** Frederick County Office of Economic Development

Thank you for your consideration of SB 549. As the Acting Director of the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, I urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report.

SB 549 creates the Build Our Future Pilot Program within the Department of Commerce to provide grants to businesses, nonprofits, local governments, and colleges/universities to build innovation infrastructure. The Frederick County Office of Economic Development supports the Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023 because it will help to create new jobs and stimulate economic growth in the County's technology sectors.

This program will support Frederick County's growth in industries including life science, manufacturing, technology, and agriculture industries by providing funding for infrastructure projects that can help to attract new businesses and entrepreneurs to our area. By investing in the technology sectors included in this bill, the Frederick County Office of Economic Development can help to establish Frederick County as a hub for innovation and technology, which can in turn lead to new opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

Additionally, we support this pilot program because it can help spur new technological advancements and innovations. The infrastructure projects funded by the program will help to create a supportive environment for new businesses and entrepreneurs and can provide opportunities for collaboration and networking.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 549. On behalf of the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, I urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report.

Jodie Bollinger  
Acting Executive Director  
Economic and Workforce Development

# **SB 549 - Economic Development - Build Our Future G**

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: INFO



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

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*President*

**Donna S. Edwards**

*Secretary-Treasurer*

**Gerald W. Jackson**

**SB 549 - Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)  
Senate Budget and Taxation  
March 1, 2023**

## **INFORMATION**

**Donna S. Edwards**

**President**

**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB 549. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

SB 549 creates a pilot program for the Build Our Future grant program and fund. The program aims to promote and assist infrastructure projects that will help Maryland become a leader in high technology sectors like advanced manufacturing, aerospace, cyber security, robotics, and biotech. Grants can be awarded to private businesses, non-profits, colleges and universities, and local governments. Grant winners can receive up to \$2,000,000 from the state with minimal requirements.

Maryland can and should be a leader in high tech industries. Our highly educated workforce and unique location, with proximity to the federal government and major transportation hubs, make our state well-suited for the economies of the future. Unfortunately, we cannot support a bill that issues millions of dollars to businesses, non-profits, and governments that does not guarantee the creation of high road jobs.

The bill states that the Secretary for the Department of Commerce is empowered to create regulations to help carry out the Build Our Future program, but this language is too vague to give Maryland's taxpayers the assurance they need that our tax money will not be used to create low paying jobs with no benefits. We cannot use taxpayer money without demanding certain job standards are met.

The State must demand that if it is using taxpayer money to help businesses, non-profits, or local governments that these entities comply with good job standards like: providing career advancement opportunities, the right to collectively bargain, paid leave, unemployment insurance and workers' compensation verification, employer provide health Insurance, and retirement benefits.

For these reasons we urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report for SB 549.