



March 15, 2023

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 0906
Economic Development – Industry 4.0 Technology Grant Program**

Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Committee;

I am writing to share my support of Senate Bill 0906 and encourage you to recommend this Bill for approval as a way to show your support for this critical piece of legislation and the positive economic impacts it will have on Maryland's manufacturing community.

Currently, there are more than 4,000 manufacturing enterprises in Maryland that collectively employ more than 110,000 workers in every county, city, and community within the State. These manufacturers are critical to our economy, our State GDP and provide opportunities for economic and job growth in our communities. These manufacturers regularly invest and re-invest resources into their businesses in an effort to remain competitive. The purchase of these technologies require manufacturers to have access to capital and the investment hundreds of thousands of dollars and significant risk to the business.

Senate Bill 0906 will provide these manufacturers with matching grants that can be utilized to invest in, and implement new technologies, and train the workforce on the latest tools of Industry 4.0 technologies. These investments are critical to the long-term competitiveness of our State's manufacturing ecosystem and will make Maryland competitive with and ahead of programs that are currently in place in our neighboring states.

The funding and matching grant program proposed through this legislation is the direct result of the Industry 4.0 Working Group led by Senator Jim Rosapepe and Delegate Lily Qi, and is modeled after similar programs already in place in other areas of the country. This legislation will provide Maryland manufacturers with the opportunity to compete on an equal playing field and make Maryland the showcase for advanced manufacturing technology.

For these reasons I respectfully request your support of SB0906 as it will have an immediate and lasting impact on our manufacturing community.

Sincerely,

Michael Kelleher
Executive Director, Maryland MEP