



6240 Old Dobbin Lane ■ Suite 110 ■ Columbia, MD 21045

March 4, 2023

Hon. Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget & Tax Committee.  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
[Guy.Guzzone@senate.state.md.us](mailto:Guy.Guzzone@senate.state.md.us)

Re: **SB 514** County Procurements – Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Programs – Certification

Position: **Favorable**

Dear Chair Guzzone:

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) is a business organization dedicated to economic, business, and community development in Howard County and the Central Maryland region. In advancing our mission, we advocate for policies that lead to job creation and investment.

It is in accordance with our mission that we ask the Budget and Tax Committee to support SB 514, which will permit disadvantaged and minority business owners who have received a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certification from a state agency, to by-pass the county application and eligibility certification.

Attached is an example of the requirements that a candidate must complete before they can become a certified MBE by the State of Maryland. Please note the “Assistance Workshops” that are provided.

We sincerely hope that the members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee will agree that the State of Maryland thoroughly examines and prepares candidates before they are designated an “MBE.”

On behalf of the Chamber members, we request a favorable vote on SB 514

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leonardo McClarty'.

Leonardo McClarty, CCE  
President, Howard County Chamber

Copy: **Members of Budget and Tax Committee**