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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

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**.