



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.