

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chairman, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Senate Building
Annapolis, MD 2401

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I urge you to support SB585/HB143 Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations. SB585/HB143 will help address the workforce labor needs of the state by equipping high school students with a list of programmatic options offered by Maryland career and skilled trade schools. Additionally, this legislation would expand the Career and Technical Education Committee (CTE) to include Maryland career and skilled trade schools, ensuring that programs are aligned with the state’s economic development and workforce goals.

As the President and CEO of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce – the leading voice for business and employment opportunities in Howard County – we support legislation that strengthens economic development, private investment, and job creation in Maryland. In Howard County specifically, Lincoln Tech has continued to serve as an integral employment partner for our members by providing skilled labor for careers in automotive, electrical, culinary, HVAC, and welding.

With nearly 700 members in the Howard County Chamber, we understand the importance of accelerating labor opportunities for our businesses and creating alternative pathways for the next generation of workers. In Maryland, more than 100,000 high school students are currently enrolled in a CTE. This legislation simply enhances awareness by allowing students to evaluate all post-secondary education options available to them in the state.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote a favorable report on SB585/HB143.

Respectfully,



Leonardo McClarty, CCE
President, Howard County Chamber of Commerce



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