



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Jodie Bollinger, Acting Executive Director

HB 0695 - Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund - Revisions and Sunset Repeal (Rural Communities Improvement Act of 2023)

DATE: March 29, 2023
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance Committee
POSITION: Support
FROM: Frederick County Office of Economic Development

Thank you for your consideration of HB 0695. As the Acting Director of the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, I urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report.

The Frederick County Office of Economic Development supports this bill for the following reasons:

1. **Workforce development:** Supporting workforce development initiatives will help to build a skilled and knowledgeable workforce in the county. This is essential for attracting and retaining businesses in the area, as well as ensuring that the workforce is able to meet the demands of the local economy.
2. **Entrepreneurship:** By adding cooperative development under entrepreneurship, the county will be able to support new and existing businesses by providing them with the resources they need to grow and succeed. This can include access to funding, training, and mentorship programs.
3. **Economic Growth:** By investing in workforce development and entrepreneurship, the county will be able to foster economic growth and prosperity in the area. This will help to create new jobs, attract investment, and improve the overall quality of life for residents.
4. **Rural Development:** The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund is designed to support economic development initiatives in rural areas. The Frederick County Office of Economic Development is eager to work with the state to ensure that the fund is used effectively to support the needs of rural communities in the county.

In summary, HB 695 is a smart investment for the Frederick County Office of Economic Development as it will help to foster workforce development, entrepreneurship, and overall economic growth in the area. Thank you for your consideration of HB 0695. On behalf of the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, I urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report.

Jodie Bollinger
Acting Executive Director
Economic and Workforce Development