



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Jodie Bollinger, Acting Executive Director

HB 552 - Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)

DATE: February 16, 2023
COMMITTEE: House Ways and Means Committee
POSITION: Support
FROM: Frederick County Office of Economic Development

Thank you for your consideration of HB 552. As the Acting Director of the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, I urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report.

HB 552 creates the Build Our Future Pilot Program within the Department of Commerce to provide grants to businesses, nonprofits, local governments, and colleges/universities to build innovation infrastructure. The Frederick County Office of Economic Development supports the Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023 because it will help to create new jobs and stimulate economic growth in the County's technology sectors.

This program will support Frederick County's growth in industries including life science, manufacturing, technology, and agriculture industries by providing funding for infrastructure projects that can help to attract new businesses and entrepreneurs to our area. By investing in the technology sectors included in this bill, the Frederick County Office of Economic Development can help to establish Frederick County as a hub for innovation and technology, which can in turn lead to new opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

Additionally, we support this pilot program because it can help spur new technological advancements and innovations. The infrastructure projects funded by the program will help to create a supportive environment for new businesses and entrepreneurs and can provide opportunities for collaboration and networking.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 552. 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