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Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of Governor Wes Moore, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 549, Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund, the Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023.

As he has made clear on the campaign trail and since taking office, Governor Moore is focused on bolstering Maryland's competitiveness to grow our economy in every region of the state. Maryland has a lot to offer. We have military bases like Aberdeen Proving Ground and Pax River, world renowned research institutions like Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland, many federal facilities like NIH, NSA, and NASA, and a highly skilled and educated workforce. But for far too long, Maryland has been asset rich but strategy poor.

This body has created many powerful programs to build up our economy in a smart and equitable way. But we have work to do and Senate Bill 549 is an impactful way to start. This legislation will create the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program to leverage state dollars and provide funding to support infrastructure that houses tech driven industries. This includes cyber ranges and SCIFs for the security sector, wetlabs for cutting edge biotech and quantum computing, manufacturing centers for next generation production, and more.

The funding set forth in this bill will provide innovative industries with the resources they need to startup and grow. The Moore-Miller Administration is committed to building an ecosystem of innovation and economic growth and this bill sets us on that path.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on Senate Bill 549.

Sincerely,

Brad Fallon
Deputy Legislative Officer