

**SB 549 -FAV - MML.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bill Jorch

Position: FAV



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

March 30, 2023

**Committee:** House Ways and Means

**Bill:** SB 549 - Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 549 as it provides grant opportunities to municipal governments to facilitate business development in their jurisdiction. Specifically, local governments are eligible to apply for grants from the newly created Build Our Future Grant Fund.

Municipalities are often the economic, population, and cultural hubs of their region and the grant opportunities provided in this bill will allow for business growth in municipalities to continue. Our members are constantly seeking new grant opportunities to better serve their constituents and are generally well situated to capitalize on these opportunities. Local governments specialize in quality of life issues and promoting business development through infrastructure improvements is something municipalities address regularly.

MML appreciates the Administration for identifying this as a priority and the role local governments play in building a community. As such the League supports the passage of SB 549 and asks for a favorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Theresa Kuhns  
Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.  
Bill Jorch  
Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer  
Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs  
Director, Public Policy  
Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

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# **SB 549 Fallon\_Gov. Moore**

Uploaded by: Brad Fallon

Position: FAV

**STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



**WES MOORE**  
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE  
100 STATE CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925  
(410) 974-3901  
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

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

# **SB0549 -- Economic Development - Build Our Future**

Uploaded by: Brian Levine

Position: FAV



**Senate Bill 549 -- *Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)***  
**House Ways and Means Committee**  
**March 30, 2023**  
**Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports Senate Bill 549 -- *Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)*.

Senate Bill 549 establishes the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund to provide grant funding of up to \$2 million to defray costs associated with an infrastructure project that supports technology sector innovation. Eligible grant recipients include private companies, nonprofits, local governments, or Maryland colleges and universities.

MCCC supports Senate Bill 549 and efforts to grow Maryland's innovation sector. Maryland, thanks to strong support from policymakers, highly educated workforce, premier higher education system, and proximity to federal government agencies focused on innovation, remains poised to grow its status as a global leader for its innovation economy. However, other states and jurisdictions also recognize the economic potential of an innovation economy and aggressively target efforts to attract these industries and their high-paying jobs.

For example, the Metro Maryland region has long made the life sciences sector a targeted industry for economic growth and job creation. These efforts have paid off and Maryland has one of the largest and most innovative and successful life sciences sectors in the country. Other innovative industries where Metro Maryland and the entire State have the potential to lead includes quantum computing, green technology, and cybersecurity. Senate Bill 549 is a significant step forward to ensure that Maryland remains competitive in the innovation economy.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports Senate Bill 549 and respectfully requests a favorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*

*Brian Levine | Vice President of Government Affairs  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
51 Monroe Street | Suite 1800  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
301-738-0015 | [www.mcccmd.com](http://www.mcccmd.com)*

**SB0549-WM\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: FAV



## **Senate Bill 549**

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Ways and Means Committee

Date: March 30, 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.



**BaltimoreCounty\_FAV\_SB0549.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joshua Greenberg

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

JENNIFER AIOSA  
*Director of Government Affairs*

AMANDA KONTZ CARR  
*Legislative Officer*

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG  
*Associate Director of Government Affairs*

**BILL NO.:**            **SB 549**

**TITLE:**                Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)

**SPONSOR:**          The Speaker (By Request – Administration)

**COMMITTEE:**        Ways and Means

**POSITION:**          **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                March 30, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 549 – Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023). This legislation would establish a grant pilot program to provide funding for eligible infrastructure projects.

Infrastructure development is crucial to keeping Maryland’s economy on track and providing Marylanders with opportunities for employment. The rapidly growing technology sector has highlighted unique opportunities to provide residents with career paths and boost the State and Local economies. However, bringing these jobs to Maryland requires ensuring the requisite infrastructure in place. As the rate of growth in this sector only increases, funding for infrastructure and significant capital investments has never been more urgent.

SB 549 creates a pilot program that would provide funding for infrastructure projects in the technology sector, ensuring that Maryland does not fall behind during a time of rapid technological growth. This legislation would incentivize the development of new business and employment opportunities which will make Maryland a hub for innovation for years to come.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 549. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).

# **SB 549\_Build Our Future Grant\_Support\_House.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kevin Anderson

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor  
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor  
Kevin A. Anderson | Secretary of Commerce  
Signe Pringle | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

**DATE:** March 30, 2023  
**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 549  
**BILL TITLE:** Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)  
**COMMITTEE:** House Ways and Means  
**POSITION:** Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports Senate Bill 549- Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023).

**Background:**

Senate Bill 549 establishes the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund in the Department of Commerce. Through the program Commerce would provide grants for infrastructure projects to support innovation in eligible industry sectors such as advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, life sciences, and quantum. Projects could include Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIFs), wet laboratories, cyber ranges, prototype manufacturing centers, and other specialized workforce training, skill certification, or research-related spaces. Grants would be awarded to assist with the costs incurred to acquire, construct, rehabilitate, install, improve, or equip an eligible project, and the grantees must provide matching funds of at least 200% or 400% of the grant funds. Governor Moore’s proposed FY 2024 budget allowance includes \$10M in Commerce’s operating budget to implement the pilot program.

**Rationale:**

Maryland has long been a leader in the innovation economy. In order to stay competitive, Maryland must continue to invest in innovation in both current and emerging technology sectors. Senate Bill 549 does this by filling a gap in the capabilities of the State’s existing economic development incentive programs. Maryland does not have many economic development grant programs, and those that do exist are smaller or targeted towards large capital projects tied to significant and immediate job creation. The Build our Future Grant program will allow the State to help private companies, local governments, and institutions of higher education fill funding gaps to complete these infrastructure projects that drive long-term innovation which will ultimately result in economic growth for the State.

One goal of this program is to bring more investment to the State and help innovative businesses start up, grow, and adapt here in Maryland. The Build our Future Grant program will do this by supporting the development of critical infrastructure and facilities for research and development, technology commercialization and product development. These grants will help the State leverage and invest in our existing assets to pave the way for Maryland to be a new home to opportunity and economic growth.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 549.

**097 LOS SB 549 CSMC signed (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**COMMISSIONERS OF  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President  
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner  
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

**SB 549**  
**Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund**  
**(Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)**

**SUPPORT**

March 24, 2023


The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chairman  
House Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131, House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Atterbeary:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **SUPPORT SB 549** – Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023) which is being heard in the Ways and Means Committee.

We support SB 549 and request a favorable report. We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe it will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,  
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

  
James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf  
T:/Consent/2023/097

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Delegate Todd Morgan  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael Hewitt  
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow  
David Weiskopf, County Administrator  
John Sterling Houser, Assistant County Attorney

# **SB 549, FAV, House, FCG Economic Development, LS23**

Uploaded by: Victoria Venable

Position: FAV



# FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive

Jodie Bollinger, Acting Executive Director

### **SB 549 - Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)**

**DATE:** March 30, 2023  
**COMMITTEE:** House Ways and Means Committee  
**POSITION:** Support  
**FROM:** Frederick County Office of Economic Development

Thank you for your consideration of SB 549. As the Acting Director of the Frederick County Office of Economic Development, I urge the committee to give this bill a favorable report.

SB 549 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 SB 549. 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



# **SB549 - RMC Support Testimony w Amendments - Econo**

Uploaded by: Megan D'Arcy

Position: FWA

*Susan O'Neill, Chair*

*Charlotte Davis, Executive Director*

Testimony in Support with Amendments of  
Senate Bill 549 – Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund  
(Innovations Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023)  
Ways and Means Committee  
March 30, 2023

**The Rural Maryland Council supports Senate Bill 549 - Economic Development – Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund (Innovations Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023) as amended.** This bill establishes the Build Our Future Grant (BOFG) Pilot Program and Fund (BOFGF) in the Department of Commerce to provide grant funding for infrastructure projects intended to support innovation in eligible technology sectors. Under the program, grants of up to \$2.0 million may be awarded to private companies, nonprofits, local governments, or colleges and universities in the State and may be used to defray specified costs associated with an eligible innovation infrastructure project. A grant recipient must provide matching funds of either 200% or 400%, depending on the size of the grant. Additional requirements are placed on grants to and used by colleges and universities. A single entity is limited to \$2.0 million in grants in a fiscal year. Commerce administers BOFGF, which may be used to provide grants and for administrative costs (up to 10%).

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is in support of the BOFG Pilot Program and Fund as it has the potential to have meaningful economic impact across the State. The State has made strides in supporting the diversification of agriculture and rural economies. The proposed state program could support programs such as F3 Tech, which focuses on providing entrepreneurial support to those businesses looking to operate in the agriculture technology field. The F3 Tech Accelerator Program provides funding and support for early-stage companies to prepare them for potential investment from the F3 Tech Seed Fund, industry partners, and investors. Their industry-specific advisors assist with expediting commercialization, accelerating manufacturing, customer acquisition and revenue development, attracting top innovators that match industry partner commercial needs, investing in innovations with grants, private funding and executive support and evaluating technologies for diversification in other sectors.

Examples of potential areas of rural interest include data analysis, data centers and biotechnology. In the years ahead, data will supplement what farmers know intuitively—and in some cases challenge those assumptions. New products rely on aerial satellite imagery, greenness sensors, soil maps and millions of weather data points. As internet commerce evolves, the needs of Big Data will too. Biotechnology is well established in our state. From fertilizer to pesticides and potential new markets, farmers are mindful of inputs and outputs and look to maximize each. From previous pitch competitions held at the RMC Rural Summit, entrepreneurs are looking for support to provide technological solutions to our agricultural and environmental challenges.

The Council believes the BOFG Pilot Program and Fund could impact businesses across the State. Rural Maryland Council respectfully requests your favorable support of Senate Bill 549 as amended.

# 2023 SB549 Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Deborah Brocato

Position: UNF



### **Opposition Statement SB549**

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

Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant  
Maryland Right to Life

#### **We oppose SB549**

On behalf of over 200,000 followers across the state, we object to **SB549**. From page 3, line 27, “**Grants may be awarded to private companies, nonprofit entities, local governments, or colleges and universities in the state,**” it is clear that this bill could easily be used to fund entities that would promote and provide abortions and abortion services. When considered in totality of other legislation and the expansion of scope of practice and the expansion of eligibility and funding for Medicaid, we oppose this full court press of state sponsored abortion. Maryland Right to Life requests an amendment to exclude abortion purposes from the application of this bill.

**Maryland is a state sponsor of abortion.** When parents send their daughters to colleges and universities, it is not for abortion access that leaves parents out of their daughters’ healthcare decisions. This bill should not be permitted to allow funding of abortion clinics at colleges and universities. The bill should not be permitted to fund privately owned abortion facilities or abortion facilities that are considered non-profit. Maryland taxpayers must not be forced to fund this predatory industry.

**Abortion is not healthcare.** It is violence against the woman or girl and her unborn child. The baby is killed and the woman or girl suffers physically, emotionally and psychologically (see [www.silentnomoreawareness.org](http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org)). 85% of OB/Gyns do not perform abortions on their patients indicating abortion is not an essential part of women’s healthcare. The Abortion Care Access Act of 2022, sponsored by former NARAL employee Delegate Ariana Kelly, removed abortion from the spectrum of healthcare by removing the physician requirement for abortion and allowing any “certified provider of abortion care” to perform or provide both chemical and surgical abortion through birth.

**Maryland fails to protect minor girls.** The Assembly reduced the age of medical consent for behavioral health services to 12 years of age. The Department of Health lists mental health as a reason for public funding of abortion, including for minor girls. Many of the businesses that commit abortions are now dispensing puberty blockers and cross-hormones. Again, gender dysphoria is a mental health condition. Minor girls could seek abortion, the lethal chemical abortion drugs and gender identity drugs without parental consent or knowledge.

**D-I-Y Abortions Endanger Women:** Public policy has failed to keep pace with the abortion industry’s rapid deployment of chemical abortion pills. “D-I-Y” abortion is normalizing “back alley abortion” where women self administer and hemorrhage without medical supervision or assistance.



### **Opposition Statement SB549**

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

Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant  
Maryland Right to Life

Chemical abortion is four times more likely to result in complications than surgical abortion. To date more than 6,000 complications have been reported and 26 women have been killed through chemical abortion since its approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Because half of all women experiencing complications from chemical abortions receive emergency intervention through hospitals, the rate of abortion complications is dramatically underreported.

**Adopt Reasonable Health and Safety Standards:** The growing reliance on chemical abortions underscores the need for a state protocol for the use of abortion pills including informed consent specific to the efficacy, complications and abortion pill reversal. Strong informed consent requirements manifest both a trust in women and a justified concern for their welfare.

While we oppose all abortion, we strongly recommend that the state of Maryland enact reasonable regulations to protect the health and safety of girls and women by adopting the previous FDA Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) safeguards that required that the distribution and use of mifepristone, the drug commonly used in chemical abortions, to be under the supervision of a licensed physician because of the drug's potential for serious complications including, but not limited to, uterine hemorrhage, viral infections, pelvic inflammatory disease, loss of fertility and death.

**Patients before Profits:** Maryland policy makers have put abortion politics before patients. In 2020, Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh joined twenty state Attorneys General in pressuring the FDA to permanently remove safeguards against the remote prescription of abortion pills. Maryland already has been circumventing the FDA restrictions on the remote distribution of chemical abortion pills since 2016 by allowing Planned Parenthood to practice tele-abortion as part of a "research" pilot program directed by Gynuity/Carefem. While program participants are loosely tracked, Maryland generally fails to protect women as one of three states that do not require abortion providers to report the number of abortions they commit, resulting in increased threat to maternal health, complications or deaths.

**Abuse of Abortion Drugs:** The state also is neglecting the fact that as much as 65% of abortions are not by choice, but by coercion. Potential for misuse and coercion is high when there is no way to verify who is consuming the medication and whether they are doing so willingly. Sex traffickers, incestuous abusers and coercive boyfriends will all welcome more easily available chemical abortion.

**The abortion industry is only concerned with abortion remaining legal. The state of Maryland has a duty to ensure that abortion is safe and must intervene on behalf of women and girls by adopting protocols and standards to protect the health and wellbeing of women and girls.**

Maryland Right to Life opposes state sponsorship of the abortion industry. The women and girls of Maryland are more than just dollar signs and deserve better than the state promoting the predatory abortion industry. Without an amendment excluding abortion purposes from this bill, we respectfully ask you to oppose **SB549**.