

February 21, 2023

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building, Room 131  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: HB0653 – Economic Development – Maryland Technology Infrastructure Pilot Program  
– Establishment**

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary:

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges your **support of HB0653 – Economic Development – Maryland Technology Infrastructure Pilot Program – Establishment.**

Western Maryland has seen tremendous investment and growth in recent years but is still behind. We believe that HB0653 begins to address this through its efforts to attract company formation, expansion, and job creation focused on meaningful employment and economic development. With two institutions of higher education in Allegany County, we have the means to educate and train individuals, but we often lose them to areas that can offer competitive jobs.

Public-private collaborations are a vital step toward growth, which ultimately benefits both the community and the state in the long run. Establishing an authority to oversee the management of the program, which includes important representation from a community college and Frostburg State University, will ensure that opportunities for collaboration at the learning and training levels meet the needs of potential investments.

Thank you for considering a **favorable report for HB0653.**

Sincerely,



Jeremy G. Irons  
Legislative Committee Chairman



Juli R. McCoy  
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Vice Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
House Ways and Means Committee Members  
Allegany County Delegation