



Md. Washington
Minority Companies Association
Connecting Large & Small Businesses to Work Together

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January 18, 2024

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chairman
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Office Building
Annapolis, Md. 21401

Ref: Senate Bill 0154-State Procurement, Preferences, Historically Underutilized Business Zones Businesses

Dear Chairman Guzzone,

It has come to my attention that the Senate and Taxation Committee will hear public comments on Senate Bill 0154, and its features to expand Maryland's procurement to businesses certified by Maryland US HUBZone certified businesses. Please understand that it is my distinct pleasure to provide testimony representing the members and e-subscribers of Md. Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA), located in Baltimore City, Maryland. Since 2002, MWMCA has operated as a construction trade, design, and material commodity trade association with hundreds of members and thousands of virtual e-subscribers. Our weekly e-newsletter to small, minority and women owned businesses is their guiding light and voice to that community. Our industry renowned website www.mwmca.org is most sought after by major corporations and small businesses alike looking to connect with one another for mutual benefits. In essence we support and endorse total social economic engineering inclusion and believe Maryland is ready for more.

Now comes our nation's enabling, Small Business Administration, US Historically Underutilized Business Zones (US HUBZone) procurement enhancement act for consideration to be adopted by Maryland legislators in this session. One might feel that the state is already inundated with other disadvantaged business programs, like our MBE/WBE, Veterans, and Small Business Reserve. However, as socially economic conscience they are, their penetration or participation is all consuming and extremely wide, whereas HUBZone certified business program targets or addresses only those businesses that are in select distressed and impoverished communities. The US HUBZone Certification program is race, gender, and ethnic neutral. Furthermore, unlike the other state disadvantaged business programs, US HUBZone certified firms must employ 35% of their employees from the geographical area in which they are located in. A game changer for employment and new business development in some of Maryland's most challenged communities.

Our progressive state has been and remains a national leader in social economic engineering inclusion and the passage of this legislation would send a strong message to firms in and around the state of Maryland that we take pride in rebuilding and stabilizing our weakest communities through employing their residents. Therefore, MWMCA fully supports the passage of Senate Bill 0154 as a jobs act generator to grow employment opportunities for those brave and committed firms residing and operating in our overlooked communities. We pray that the Budget and taxation committee will vote in favor of passage of this bill and move it to the General Assembly for full vote. Then and only then will total economic inclusion be achieved by our glorious “Free State”.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne R. Frazier, Sr.', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Wayne R. Frazier, Sr.
President