



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
SMALL, MINORITY & WOMEN
BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Governor Wes Moore

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

Special Secretary Y. Maria Martinez

DATE: March 4, 2024

Bill Number: House Bill 1077

COMMITTEE: Economic Matters Committee

BILL TITLE: Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs – Small Business
Climate Change Coordinator – Establishment

GOSBA POSITION: Favorable with Amendments (FWA)

Dear Chair Wilson and Committee Members:

The Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide written testimony for House Bill 1077 (HB 1077).

HB 1077 establishes the Small Business Climate Change Coordinator in the Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs in the Executive Department to support the State's small, minority, and women-owned business community on matters related to climate change and requires, on request, the Coordinator to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on the impact of climate change on small businesses and the effect of a transition to advanced clean energy on small businesses in the State.

GOSBA recognizes there are opportunities to support our small, minority, and women-owned businesses on matters related to climate change. HB 1077 would prove to be instrumental in preventing and mitigating the impacts of climate change, including flooding, extreme heat, storm damage, and saltwater intrusion. With the addition of the Small Business Climate Change Coordinator in our office, GOSBA would have the opportunity to initiate resiliency efforts to all small businesses. It expands our role beyond state procurement and nascent industries specifically and supports our evolution into a hub where all small businesses impacted by climate change can thrive.

As an informational resource reaching over 17,000 small businesses and entrepreneurs, we are committed to collaborate with the Office of Resilience within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to provide support to businesses interested in developing services in the climate change and resilience sector.

GOSBA is grateful to offer this letter of support with the addition of the Office of Resilience and welcomes the opportunity to discuss further.

Sincerely,

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