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MAYOR

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**SB0209**

February 6, 2024

**TO:** Members of the Senate Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
**RE:** Senate Bill 209 – Maryland Economic Development Commission – Alterations

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 209.

SB 209 ensures full state representation and adds representation for the Life Science Industry and the Manufacturing Industry to the Maryland Economic Development Commission. The bill alterations will ensure the Commission's ability to develop policies which will support the Life Science Industry and the Manufacturing Industry, both of which are important growth industries for Maryland. Moreover, the proposed incorporation of the Maryland Port Administration's strategic plan for the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore into the Commission's economic development strategic plan will further bolster the capabilities of both the Life Sciences and Manufacturing sectors by encouraging the highest benefits of importing and exporting their materials and products. Alignment with the Port as an economic development asset is critical.

The Life Science and Manufacturing sectors will expand the Maryland job market, thereby creating high-quality jobs at every level. In addition, strong growth industries such as Life Science and Manufacturing will attract ancillary investment and similar businesses to Maryland.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 209.