



**Senate Bill 516 -- *Economic Development - Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission***  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
**February 16, 2024**  
**Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports Senate Bill 516 -- *Economic Development - Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission*.

Senate Bill 516 establishes the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission, whose purpose would be to promote innovation in the fields of space exploration and commercial aerospace opportunities, including the integration of space, aeronautics, and aviation industries into the economy of the State.

In Metro Maryland and throughout the State of Maryland, innovative industries are an important part of the economy. To grow these industries and the high-paying jobs they create, it is imperative that policymakers work with the private sector to create competitive pathways for growth. By creating the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission, the State would show its commitment to growing and expanding this vital innovation sector of the economy.

Growing Maryland-based industries like aerospace and space exploration also benefits small business federal contractors. In Metro Maryland, these small businesses are often run by military service disabled or veteran entrepreneurs. More and more, thanks to the proximity to the federal government, government contracting is a growing and innovative industry all its own. Maryland's leaders should continue efforts to grow and expand opportunities for this segment of the economy.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports Senate Bill 516 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.*

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