



Capital Region Minority  
Supplier Development Council

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## **Testimony in Support of House Bill 0877 - Board of Public Works Transparency Dashboard**

The Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council is an affiliate of the National Minority Supplier Development Council, the nation's premier certifying organization for 1700 private sector corporations and government agencies.

The Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council wholeheartedly endorses House Bill 0877, which mandates the creation of a procurement dashboard, known as the "Board of Public Works Transparency Dashboard," on the Comptroller's website. This initiative aims to provide comprehensive visibility into all procurements approved by the Board of Public Works, ensuring equitable access to procurement information for contractors across Maryland.

During Fiscal Year 2023, the Board of Public Works sanctioned over \$8.8 billion in procurements. While there has been progress in awarding contracts to minority businesses, we believe that greater transparency regarding BPW approvals could further enhance these efforts.

As the saying goes, "You can't measure what you can't see." The transparency dashboard proposed by HB0877 will enable state procurement officials to track and assess procurement activities, ensuring that all businesses, including the significant minority business community, have equal access to state procurement opportunities. By providing insights into procurement processes from approval to payment, this dashboard will facilitate better-informed decision-making and foster fair competition among businesses of all sizes.

It is well-documented that minority businesses often lack timely access to information about upcoming procurement opportunities, hindering their ability to assemble bid teams and compete effectively. By making procurement data for larger projects readily accessible, this initiative will empower all Maryland businesses to seize opportunities and foster equitable growth.

In today's world, transparency is paramount in governance. Implementing a publicly accessible dashboard for procurement updates is a crucial step towards achieving greater transparency in government operations. House Bill 0877 represents a significant stride in this direction.

Respectfully,

Sharon R. Pinder  
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