



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Members, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Kevin M. Harris

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 15, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 685 – *Economic Development – Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential, making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 685.

This bill would establish the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission to promote innovation in the fields of space exploration and commercial aerospace opportunities, including the integrations of space, aeronautics, and aviation industries into the economy of the State. MTC's mission includes working to position Maryland as one of the leading states in the nation for innovation. Core to this strategy is capitalizing on our assets. There are numerous assets in Maryland relevant to this bill, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and others. The goal of the bill is to capitalize on these strengths by bringing together these institutions with other stakeholders to identify strategies to foster innovation and build Maryland's economy connected to activities in the aerospace and space exploration industries.

The MTC commends any efforts intended to build on our strengths and promote innovation. This bill is aligned with those goals. We urge a **favorable** report.

For more information call:

Andrew G. Vetter
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000



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