



**February 23, 2024**

**RE: Support for House Bill 1018  
Manufacturing Business Personal Property Tax - Exemption**

House Ways and Means Committee, Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and Members of the Committee;

As the Executive Director of the Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maryland MEP), an organization that works with the nearly 4,000 manufacturing enterprises in Maryland, I am writing to support HB0827.

More than 85% of Maryland's manufacturing enterprises are small and very-small businesses, including a large percentage of women-owned, minority-owned organizations. These small businesses are faced with the constantly increasing costs of adopting and implementing new equipment and technology while trying to compete domestically and globally. The proposed legislation to ensure the consistent application of the personal property tax exemption of Manufacturing Businesses is critical to ensuring that our manufacturing businesses are able to compete both state-wide, domestically and globally. Owners of small manufacturers regularly invest in equipment and technology to improve their businesses, equipment that can cost upwards of \$100,000 or more and ensuring that these business owners are not taxed on this equipment as personal property is essential to ensure the competitiveness of Maryland Manufacturing.

For these reasons, I am in favor of HB 1018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Kelleher'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Kelleher  
Executive Director, Maryland MEP