

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 861 – Economic Development - Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Senator George C. Edwards Fund – Alterations

Dear Chair Guzzone and Distinguished Committee Members,

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of almost 675 members representing over 40,000 employees, supports **SB 861 – Economic Development - Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Senator George C. Edwards Fund – Alterations**, and we respectfully ask you to vote in support of this legislation.

The three western counties in Maryland have greatly benefited from the original George C. Edwards Fund legislation and economic development initiative. Businesses have been created and expanded, jobs have been added, and the tax base for the respective counties and the State of Maryland has grown. In short, we have all prospered!

Extending and modifying The Fund for five years, and allocating at least \$10 million each year to The Fund, will continue to provide the desired returns on investment, which is the intent of the legislation and program. The prosperity of business and community will continue with the support of this legislation.

Again, the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our almost 675 members representing over 40,000 employees, supports **SB 861 – Economic Development - Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Senator George C. Edwards Fund – Alterations**, and we respectfully ask you to vote in support of this legislation.

Please contact me at 301-739-2015, ext. 102, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Paul Frey, IOM
President & CEO

