House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 27, 2025
House Bill 1256 – *Vehicle Laws – Fully Autonomous Vehicles*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC), with over 800 members, is the State's largest association of technology companies. Our vision is to propel Maryland to be the country's number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology. MTC brings the State's life sciences and technology communities into a united organization that empowers members to achieve their goals through advocacy, networking, and education. We submit this letter of support for House Bill 1256 on behalf of MTC.

MTC supports the intent of this legislation to establish a regulatory framework for the operation of autonomous vehicles (AVs) in Maryland. This legislation represents a critical step toward fostering innovation, ensuring public safety, and positioning Maryland as a leader in emerging transportation technologies. Autonomous vehicles have the potential to revolutionize transportation by improving safety, reducing congestion, and expanding mobility options for underserved communities. With advancements in artificial intelligence, sensor technology, and vehicle automation, AVs can significantly reduce human error, which is a leading cause of roadway accidents. A clear regulatory structure will provide certainty for companies investing in this technology, while ensuring appropriate safety and operational guidelines are in place to protect Maryland residents.

By establishing a framework for AV testing and deployment, Maryland will attract technology companies, manufacturers, and investors looking for a supportive environment to develop and deploy these transformative solutions. This legislation will also help create high-quality jobs in the state's technology and automotive sectors, strengthening Maryland's economy and competitive standing in the region. We request a favorable report.

For more information call:
Andrew G. Vetter
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000