



Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB377/HB648— ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Business Resource Initiative for Developmental Growth and Empowerment (Bridge)

Dear Chair of the Senate Finance Committee: The Hon. Pamela Beidle,

On behalf of Prince George's Chamber of Commerce, we respectfully request your support of SB0377, The Bridge Program Bill. This legislation is necessary to support Maryland's economic development for businesses in diverse communities. This historic legislation will be utilized to make Maryland business creation more equitable, competitive, and up-to-date with modern enterprise standards and protocols.

The Prince George's Chamber is in support of SB0377. This historic legislation addresses the immense need for economic development in under-served communities. Establishing the BRIDGE Program will provide grants to specific social enterprises, and for-profit, and charitable organizations to establish diverse business incubators. The BRIDGE Program will create new businesses via investment of grant funding and other funding generated for startups in communities in the State of Maryland. Please vote in favor of this important initiative.

The House Bill will be heard on February 20 in the House Ways & Means Committee, Chaired by Del Vanessa Atterbeary.

Warm regards,

Alexander K. Austin

President & CEO
Prince George's Chamber of Commerce