



March 4, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary  
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
Room 130, House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Support HB 498 - The DECADE Act of 2025**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and members of the committee:

On behalf of Chamber of Progress – a tech industry association supporting public policies to build a more inclusive country in which all people benefit from technological leaps – I write today to **respectfully urge you to support HB 498, The DECADE Act.**

**HB 498 promotes technology innovation in Maryland**

HB 498 is a critical step in advancing technology innovation in Maryland, serving as a key driver for economic growth and job creation. As industries increasingly rely on cutting-edge technology, Maryland is uniquely positioned to capitalize on its strong educational and research institutions to cultivate a thriving innovation ecosystem. By investing in technological advancements, Maryland will attract new businesses, retain top talent, and boost productivity across sectors.

Tech innovation is particularly important for Maryland, given its robust infrastructure and established presence in technology. Prioritizing technology innovation through targeted investments and initiatives, as outlined in §5-2402, will cultivate a dynamic landscape that drives economic growth and positions Maryland as a leader in emerging industries. By creating a supportive ecosystem for startups and established companies in these sectors, Maryland can foster collaboration, attract venture capital, and stimulate the development of groundbreaking technologies. This strategic emphasis on innovation can help the state establish itself as a hub for tech-driven enterprises, encouraging the commercialization of new ideas and solutions.

**HB 498 promotes workforce development in Maryland**

Workforce development is a crucial pillar of Maryland's economic growth, directly impacting the state's ability to compete in an increasingly knowledge-driven economy. A skilled workforce enhances productivity and attracts new businesses seeking talent-rich environments. By investing in workforce training and development programs, Maryland

can equip its residents with the necessary skills for high-demand industries, particularly technology and manufacturing.

For instance, enhancing training programs focused on emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, can ensure Maryland's workers remain competitive. Initiatives like the Talent Accelerator Grant Program (§3-402) can facilitate funding for educational institutions and businesses to provide targeted training and certifications, ensuring workers are prepared for the challenges of the evolving job market.

Additionally, by fostering collaboration between educational institutions and businesses, Maryland can create a pipeline of skilled workers tailored to the specific needs of its industries. Programs that assist businesses in areas such as technology development and commercialization, small business development, and workforce productivity (§25-106)(5)) are critical for promoting the alignment of training with real-world applications.

Investing in technology and workforce initiatives will make Maryland a leader in attracting and retaining high-tech companies, ultimately driving long-term economic prosperity.

For these reasons, **we respectfully urge you to support HB 498, The DECADE Act.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brianna January". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brianna" being more prominent than the last name "January".

Brianna January  
Director of State & Local Government Relations, Northeast US