



March 4, 2024

The Hon. Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chairwoman, House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 498 (DECADE Act of 2025)
SUPPORT**

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce, I am honored to testify in strong support of Governor Wes Moore's **DECADE Act of 2025**. This forward-thinking legislation represents a significant opportunity to foster economic growth, workforce development, and long-term prosperity for businesses and communities across Maryland, particularly for those that are already in Prince George's County or looking to locate in our County.

The DECADE Act strategically aligns with our Chamber's mission to advocate for policies that drive equitable economic opportunities, support small businesses, and strengthen our regional economy. Our membership—spanning businesses of all sizes and industries—recognizes that this Act will serve as a catalyst for sustainable development and innovation, helping entrepreneurs and employers succeed in a competitive marketplace.

Key Reasons for Our Support:

1. Empowering Small and Minority-Owned Businesses

The DECADE Act provides targeted investments and resources to historically underrepresented businesses, helping to close the gap in access to capital, technical assistance, and government contracts. Prince George's County is home to a dynamic and diverse business community, and these provisions will enable our entrepreneurs to thrive, creating a ripple effect of job growth and economic resilience.

2. Strengthening Workforce Development and Job Creation

A skilled workforce is the foundation of a prosperous economy. By expanding training programs, apprenticeships, and career pathways, the DECADE Act ensures that Marylanders—including those in Prince George’s County—are equipped with the necessary skills to meet the demands of emerging industries. This will not only reduce unemployment but also increase our region’s competitiveness in key economic sectors.

3. Driving Strategic Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation

The Act’s focus on modernizing infrastructure, fostering technological innovation, and attracting new industries aligns with the Chamber’s commitment to economic expansion. By making strategic investments in transportation, broadband access, and commercial development, Maryland can position itself as a hub for business growth and investment.


4. Enhancing Public-Private Partnerships

Collaboration between the business community and government is essential to long-term economic success. The DECADE Act encourages public-private partnerships that leverage resources and expertise to implement effective economic policies. This approach ensures that both businesses and residents benefit from sustained economic progress.

The Prince George’s Chamber of Commerce fully supports the DECADE Act because it represents a transformative step toward an inclusive, innovative, and thriving economy. By prioritizing small businesses, workforce development, infrastructure, and public-private collaboration, this legislation will generate long-lasting benefits for Marylanders, particularly in Prince George’s County, where economic empowerment is essential to our collective success.

We respectfully urge the Committee FOR A **FAVORABLE REPORT** and advance this critical legislation for the future of Maryland’s economy. Thank you.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexander K. Austin".

Alexander K. Austin
President & CEO