

Testimony in Support of Authorizing MSCRF to Lead the Advanced Manufacturing Program under SB0905

Dear Chair and Members of the Economic Matters Committee

My name is Jon Rowley, Founder and Chief Product Officer of RoosterBio, Inc., a Frederick, Maryland-based company commercializing human stem cell GMP supply chain and manufacturing solutions for the Advanced Therapies Industry.

I am writing to strongly support authorizing the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission, through the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF), to operate the advanced manufacturing program proposed under SB0905.

RoosterBio's growth is a direct example of how MSCRF helps companies move from science to scalable manufacturing and commercialization.

RoosterBio has expanded its manufacturing capabilities to meet growing global demand for high-quality, standardized cell banks, ancillary materials, and scalable processes for therapeutic products made from living cells. This doesn't happen without the right support. MSCRF understands the needs of manufacturing in regenerative medicine—where the challenges are technical and capital-intensive, with regulatory complexities as well.

With MSCRF support, we've been able to grow our operations in Maryland, creating multiple high-quality jobs over the past several year, enabling new IP creation, and supporting the expansion of our cell, media, and service offerings that support customers across the U.S. and internationally—bringing new revenue, IP, and technical talent into the state. This is exactly the kind of outcome SB0905 is intended to drive.

What makes MSCRF effective is not just funding—it's how they deploy it. They have a rigorous review process, deep technical expertise, and a clear understanding of what it takes to move therapies into real-world production. The MSCRF administrators also hold grantees accountable, staying on top of timelines and being firm on updates and deliverables, while exercising flexibility when need be (I say this from experience).

Advanced manufacturing in regenerative medicine is not something that can be managed like a traditional grant program. It requires specialized knowledge and an existing infrastructure. MSCRF are well versed in both.

If the goal of SB0905 is to accelerate manufacturing, support companies at critical stages, and strengthen Maryland's leadership in this field, then the most practical and effective approach is to build on what already works.

MSCRF is already doing this work—and doing it well.

I strongly encourage you to amend the bill language to have MSCRF lead this program.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon A. Rowley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jon A. Rowley, PhD

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