



Testimony Presented to the Senate Finance Committee

March 5, 2026

Senate Bill 905 – Maryland Technology Development Corporation – Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Grant Program – Established

Position: Support

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 905. SB 905 establishes the Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Grant Program Fund within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) to support the growth of companies specializing in regenerative medicine and other advanced manufacturing. I appreciate the bill sponsor Senator Zucker's leadership and support on this important bill.

Ion Storage Systems, Inc. (ION), a Beltsville, Maryland-based developer of solid-state battery technology, develops solid-state battery technology that increases product energy density, engineering flexibility, and manufacturing scalability. With plans to commercialize this cell technology for deployment initially into high-value industrials and consumer electronics applications, ION has been recognized by some of the leading consumer electronics companies as the only technology that meets the needs of their next-generation products. ION's team of 50 employees is innovating upon the invention of a ceramic structure first invented at the University of Maryland; batteries incorporating this technology will be ready to activate the electrified technologies which will be hallmarks of the future of AI, mobility, and computation market segments in Maryland and across the world. In total, ION has raised ~\$60M in equity and secured ~\$37M in grant funding to support this mission.

The State of Maryland and its resources have been instrumental to ION's success. TEDCO has invested in ION twice; first during a note round in 2024 and again in ION's series A-4 round in 2026. ION is also the recipient of a \$1M grant from the Maryland Department of Commerce's Build Our Future Grant Pilot program, part of the [Governor's Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023](#). Especially with many other states offering programs like the New York Battery and Energy Storage Technology (NY-BEST) Consortium to provide resources which attract battery talent to the state, we believe the continuing commitment of Maryland to supporting hard technology innovation is crucial to state competitiveness.

ION supports SB 905, The Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Grant Program, because the program could fund facility upgrades and specialized equipment needed to expand advanced manufacturing capabilities in Maryland-based innovation hubs. The program's capital support

aligns directly with the needs of companies working on production-intensive technologies which require material processing, environmental controls, assembly equipment, and metrology systems. SB 905 can enable increased output, strengthened quality, and shortened timelines for delivering validated products to customers, while supporting growth in engineering and operator roles across the state.

SB 905 benefits Maryland because it strengthens the state's advanced manufacturing base by helping companies expand production capacity here instead of shifting growth to competing states. The bill supports capital-intensive improvements that carry strong economic multipliers, with each advanced manufacturing job supporting nearly five additional jobs. Maryland has recently attracted major manufacturing investments, and this program helps ensure Maryland-founded companies can grow alongside these global players.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. For all these reasons, I support the bill and urge the Committee to vote favorably on the legislation.