

March 31, 2026

Hon. Kriselda Valderrama
Economic Matters
Maryland House of Delegates

Re: Support for Senate Bill 770

Dear Chair Valderrama and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Greater Washington Partnership (the Partnership), I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 770. This legislation represents a critical step in creating a cross-sector ecosystem to position Maryland for long-term economic growth.

The Partnership is a nonprofit alliance of nearly 50 leading corporate, university, and nonprofit employers in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia committed to championing the region's growth and vitality. Our member organizations provide 647,000 direct and supported jobs through their economic activity across the region, and together we leverage our collective resources to identify shared challenges and offer solutions to the region's critical workforce, transportation, and economic development challenges. Our employer community supports investments in programs that promote innovation and broad-based growth.

By establishing Maryland's Future Board, SB 770 creates a durable structure to develop a long-term "visionary plan" for the state's future and to identify projects that advance that plan. This forward-looking approach is aligned with what our region needs to sustain and grow an economy rooted in innovation, resilience, and opportunity. As we detail in our recent report, [*Region Rising: Shaping Greater Washington's Economy for the Future*](#), Maryland and our greater region are at an inflection point. The state leads the nation in academic R&D yet ranks last in early-stage startup job creation. At the same time, Maryland lost approximately 25,000 jobs tied to federal contraction in 2025. These trends underscore a core challenge identified in *Region Rising*: we have the assets, but lack the coordination to translate them into long-term growth.

Importantly, SB 770's planning framework is designed to look ahead, encouraging leaders to imagine the economic and technological trends that will shape Maryland's future and to translate that vision into actionable priorities. For a region that competes on research strength, talent, and proximity to federal decision-making, long-term planning and alignment are essential to ensuring Maryland remains a place where businesses invest, entrepreneurs build, and workers can thrive.

At a pivotal moment for Maryland's future, SB 770 can help institutionalize the long-term, cross-sector thinking needed to compete in the economy of the future. For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 770. Thank you for your consideration and shared commitment to making this region the best place to live, work, and build a business.

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