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Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Finance Committee
Maryland State Senate
Annapolis, Maryland

**Re: SB867 – Economic Development – Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission –
Alterations**

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit this statement in support of Senate Bill 867, which strengthens the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission (MATC) so Maryland can move from strategy to execution.

The General Assembly created MATC in 2024, housed in the Department of Commerce, and required the Commission to develop and update a strategic plan and submit an annual report each year by October 1. The Commission has done exactly what the legislature asked—organizing its work, conducting a statewide strengths/weaknesses assessment, and producing its FY25 Strategic Plan and Annual Report.

In its FY25 report, MATC documents a clear urgency: federal and commercial activity in space and defense is accelerating, competition for key firms is intensifying, and Maryland's window is narrowing as neighboring states invest aggressively. The report lays out a practical framework to win—built around Maryland's unique assets and a "SMART Aerospace Hub" approach that links systems & missions, advanced materials/manufacturing, autonomy/AI, resilient navigation (PNT), and workforce/talent into one coordinated statewide value chain.

SB867 is the legislature's "now act" step. It modernizes MATC's statutory purpose, strengthens operational capacity (including requiring an Executive Director), and enables the Commission to support implementation—so Maryland is not left with a strong plan but no tools to deliver it.

Maryland has the federal anchors, research excellence, and industry base to lead. MATC has delivered the roadmap we requested. Now it is our responsibility to give the Commission the authority to execute.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 867.

With regards,

Alonzo T. Washington

Maryland State Senator