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**March 5, 2026**

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee  
131 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SUPPORT – House Bill 1128: Income Tax – Angel Investor Tax Credit for Investments in Emergent Technology**

Dear Chair Wilkins and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for **House Bill 1128**, which seeks to establish an Angel Investor Tax Credit for investments in Maryland-based emergent technology companies. This legislation is a vital tool for fostering innovation and ensuring that Maryland remains a premier destination for high-growth technology startups.

The early stages of a technology company's lifecycle are often the most precarious. While Maryland excels at research and development, particularly in "Emergent Technologies" like cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, our startups often struggle to secure the "bridge" funding necessary to scale. **HB 1128** provides a strategic incentive for angel investors to provide that essential capital, keeping our homegrown talent and intellectual property within the state.

**I support House Bill 1128 for the following reasons:**

- **Economic Competitiveness:** Many neighboring states offer similar credits. By passing HB 1128, Maryland levels the playing field, ensuring that local investors are incentivized to keep their capital working here in our state.
- **Job Creation:** Emergent technology companies are significant drivers of high-wage job growth. By de-risking the initial investment, this bill indirectly supports the creation of specialized roles in engineering, data science, and cyber-defense.
- **Focus on the Future:** By specifically targeting emergent technologies, the bill ensures that Maryland's economy is anchored in the industries that will define the next decade of global commerce and security.

Establishing this tax credit is a forward-thinking investment in Maryland's economic resilience. It empowers the private sector to partner with the state in building a more robust and innovative business environment.

I respectfully urge the House Ways and Means Committee to give **House Bill 1128 a favorable report**.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tasha L. Cornish".

Tasha Cornish  
Executive Director  
Cybersecurity Association, Inc.

