



THE GREATER BETHESDA
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Better business. Stronger community.

Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

In Support of

*House Bill 898—Economic Development—Delivering Economic Competitiveness and
Advancing Development (DECADE) Act*

February 18, 2026

House Ways and Means and Economic Matters Committees

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 650 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on House Bill 898—Economic Development—Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development (DECADE) Act.

Senate Bill 388 makes a series of updates to Maryland’s economic development programs. It modernizes existing economic development tools and strengthens state competitiveness through an updated strategic fund. It sustains and extends major job-creation and innovation incentives. All this better aligns state programs with current economic conditions. The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce consistently supports policy efforts that will improve our business climate and positively impact our growing economy. For this reason, we are proud to lend our support to House Bill 898. Policies that streamline or better align state-level programs can reduce administrative duplication, freeing up resources that can instead support business growth, workforce development and entrepreneurship. In addition, improving the State’s ability to respond to emerging industry needs can help attract new employers and retain existing ones by demonstrating that the workforce ecosystem is adaptable and business-friendly.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on House Bill 898.