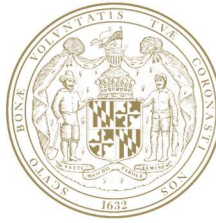


JEFFERSON L. GHRIST
Co-CHAIR

NATALIE ZIEGLER
Co-CHAIR



H. KEVIN ANDERSON
TERRY BAKER
KEVIN B. HORNBERGER
ANDRE V. JOHNSON, JR.
STEVE JOHNSON
SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
HOUSE RURAL CAUCUS

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Chair, Ways & Means Committee
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the Rural Caucus, we are writing to express our support for **HB 1128 Income Tax – Angel Investor Tax Credit for Investments in Emergent Technology**.

This bill provides a tax credit for angel investors who invest in certain emergent technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, or cybersecurity. For rural regions, this credit will help create another avenue by which businesses in the area can benefit from contributing to these emergent technologies, while keeping money within local economies. In comparison to other areas of the state, rural regions are often outpaced in areas related to technological development, and this legislation serves to drive more investment into these fields.

For these reasons, the Rural Caucus supports HB 1128 and requests a favorable report.
Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jefferson L. Ghrist".

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Ziegler".

Delegate Natalie Ziegler
Co-Chair