

**FAVORABLE Support of SB 442/HB 313:
Public-Private Partnership Agreements - Minority Business Enterprise Programs**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

Senate Bill 442 proposes to restore the applicability of Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program to public-private partnerships (P3s).

As a certified small business owner in Maryland, I am keenly aware of the benefits of public-private partnerships. P3s enable greater private sector participation, expertise, and mitigate risk for state agencies engaged in large infrastructure projects.

Restoring the application of the MBE program to P3s would benefit my Minority Business Enterprise for several reasons.

As a certified MBE Jackson Management Group, LLC will have access to participate on projects; specifically P3 projects, that I would normally be shut out of. When we are successfully contracted as an MBE on P3 projects we gain access to loan opportunities to secure funding as banks want to see businesses working and generating income. Jackson Management Group working on a P3 projects, I am able to grow my business and increase my credibility as a business. MBE participation on P3 projects is an obligation of government to ensure that all firms in our State have an opportunity to participate in contracts that are paid for with tax dollars.

After the completion of the 2017 Business Disparities in the Maryland Market Area study, Chapter 340 of the 2017 Maryland Code reauthorized the MBE program for five more years. However, it did not restore the application of the program to P3s. Senate Bill 442 would restore that application, enabling my Minority Business Enterprise to thrive in Maryland.

Thus, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 442/House Bill 313.

Respectfully,

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Jackson Management Group, LLC is a MBE | WBE | DBE | SBE Certified Firm