



**CALVERT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Courthouse, 175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-4583 • 301-855-1880
www.calvertcountymd.gov

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Kelly Robertson-Slagle, Director

January 16, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Kelley:

I am writing to you on behalf of the citizens and businesses in Calvert County, Maryland, and in full support of Senate Bill 26: "*Partnership for Workforce Quality Program – Alterations.*"

For many years now, the PWQ program has been a key component of our economic development outreach and support program. We have relied on it to supplement the incentives we offer locally and I believe it has been instrumental in helping our businesses – and their workforce – rise to new levels of productivity, innovation and success. Kelly Generator, Batching Systems, Chesapeake Plastics and DirectMail Group – all well-established and successful Calvert County-based businesses – have each taken advantage of the PWQ grant program to train their employees in cutting-edge technology and machine operations.

At the core of the PWQ program is a dollar-for-dollar investment in Maryland's workforce. This investment helps companies improve efficiency, develop manufacturing best practices, modernize operations and transform their operations to become more competitive in the global marketplace.

Senate Bill 26 will be particularly useful for Calvert County's technology and manufacturing businesses since it enhances and expands the PWQ program to allow for *new* employee training (as well as existing employees) and removes funding limits that have unintentionally penalized mid-sized companies and limited the Department of Commerce's ability to determine the best and highest use of the funds to fully support Maryland's economic development initiatives.

Our Maryland workforce and technology and manufacturing companies are among the finest in the world. The PWQ program helps ensure that we remain competitive, productive and agile.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Robertson-Slagle" followed by a stylized flourish.

Kelly Robertson-Slagle
Director

cc: Kelly M. Schulz, Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce
Julian M. Willis, County Administrator, Calvert County Government