

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser  
Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee  
131 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**House Bill 1585 – Economic Development – Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative Program  
Extension and Alterations - SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington and members of the Committee,

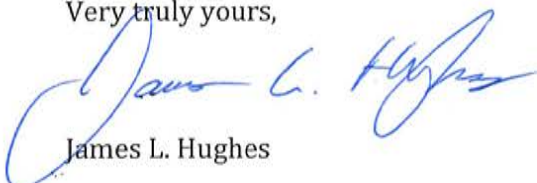
The Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative Program was created to spur basic and applied research in scientific and technical fields at Maryland colleges and universities by matching private donations with grants from the Maryland Department of Commerce to create endowed chairs in select fields.

Investment in new research faculty can be substantial. Start-up packages to recruit new basic research scientists run in the range of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Salary support, laboratory equipment and materials, and graduate research assistant support are all components of such packages. Through the E-Nnovation program, the University of Maryland, Baltimore has been the recipient of almost \$5 million in matching state funds over the years to assist in attracting top talent to Maryland. This investment has allowed UMB to attract top talent in the fields of neurotrauma, anesthesiology, and translational cancer research.

The purpose and intent of E-Nnovation is to retain and recruit top university researchers and encourage collaboration among Maryland research universities, federal agencies and the private sector (especially entrepreneurial companies). The combination of top talent and collaboration enhances the economic competitiveness of the State as it builds on existing clusters of research and innovation. E-Nnovation gives Maryland a tremendous advantage in the intense global competition for the best minds in the world, and provides for opportunities, jobs and industries created by their work.

For all of these reasons I urge a favorable report.

Very truly yours,



James L. Hughes