



**ELLICOTT CITY  
PARTNERSHIP**

February 19, 2021

Christopher Pineda  
Ellicott City Partnership  
8321 Main Street  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Re: HB1143 – Work Share Expansion Act of 2021

Chairman Davis, Vice Chairwoman Dumais, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of the Ellicott City Partnership and the over 100 businesses that we represent in our Maryland Main Street community, we voice our support of House Bill 1143 - the Workshare Expansion Act of 2021.

This program, after passage of this bill, would be of great interest to our small businesses. Many of our small businesses have been heavily impacted by the disruption the pandemic has created and have seen a reduction in their revenues. To deal with those reductions in revenue and an uncertain recovery, our small businesses need flexible tools like workshare to meet their particular needs. We believe that this will be especially helpful in assisting with the rehiring of previously laid off employees – a critical component of recovery for many of our businesses.

While this helps our businesses now, we know that the bill protects the solvency of the UI trust fund, and could assist with keeping Unemployment Insurance (UI) rates low for our Maryland businesses in the years to come.

We are respectfully requesting a favorable report from the committee to ensure that our businesses are supported throughout our recovery from the pandemic, and that we are able to bring laid off employees back to work in our strong economic community.

Sincerely,

Christopher Pineda, MBA  
Executive Director  
Ellicott City Partnership