



**SOUTHERN MARYLAND
MINORITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

TO MAKE A COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL



February 1, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

I am writing on behalf of the Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce (SMMCOC) to voice our support for **SB33 – State and County Procurement - Minority Business Enterprise Program Participation Goals**. As a regional voice for small, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses across Southern Maryland, we are very in tune with the struggles and hardships that many business owners in our communities face. For the last seven years, we have sought to protect the interests of these local businesses while promoting development and innovation across Calvert County, Charles County, St. Mary's County and Southern Prince George's County. As an all-volunteer foundation, the Covid-19 pandemic has been exceptionally hard on the SMMCOC and our members. Nevertheless, we have seen the promising growth our region has made in recent years, and we are hopeful that the State of Maryland will continue to protect small, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses.

The proposed legislation would result in a positive change to the culture of our community and shine a light on the disadvantages minority-owned businesses face in Maryland. The current participation goals established by the State have been a net-positive for our local business owners and we are encouraged that the State may continue advancing these goals. For the continued advancement of minority-owned businesses in Southern Maryland, we are respectfully requesting the Committee's **FAVORABLE** consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

Doris Cammack-Spencer
President/CEO