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 SB157 – Procurement – Specialized Printing Services Contracts – Board of Public Works Approval. 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.

Many in our region have benefited from Board of Public Works procurement. This bill would expand the possibilities of procurement and business opportunity to include specialized printing services. This last election has shown us how important local involvement in the election process is. For these reasons, we are respectfully requesting the Committee's **FAVORABLE** consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

Doris Cammack-Spencer President/CEO