



ALLEGANY COLLEGE
of MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

January 26, 2021

TESTIMONY

Submitted by
Dr. Cynthia Bambara, President

House Bill 443 - Economic Development – Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program
Position: Favorable

Please accept this public testimony representing Allegany College of Maryland's complete and unequivocal support of House Bill 443 (Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program), sponsored by Delegate Mike McKay. Allegany College of Maryland, in cooperation with Allegany County Government, established Western Maryland Works as a Makerspace Educational Site in 2018. Since the inception of the concept, the College has been thrilled to have served as the primary partner with Allegany County Government to continue to enhance Western Maryland Works, Allegany County's First Makerspace and the first Makerspace in Western Maryland.

House Bill 443 further supports the State of Maryland's Economic Recovery Initiatives to build a stronger economy post COVID-19. The future of the region's well-being is dependent on having an educated and skilled workforce and Allegany College of Maryland is committed to serving as the educational partner to meet this need. The College works collaboratively to create better economic development opportunities and provide the education, job training, and career preparation services needed by our residents. We will also closely work to expand current programs and create new training programs to meet the needs of our community.

This space will be one more tool that will allow for innovation, creativity, and imagination that will help to foster entrepreneurial spirit and support small business development and expansion. As part of this Project, the College has relocated its Advanced Manufacturing, Industrial Maintenance, Welding, and related training programs and equipment to this space to continue to serve this need. In addition, the College will continue to work closely with Allegany County, our closest partner, to collaborate on future training needs and external funding resources that will expand and enhance this space for our region.

Allegany College of Maryland and Allegany County Government stand together in sending a clear message to individuals, small businesses, and entrepreneurs from across the State and region that we are available and prepared to support future business creation and expansion.

Please know that your support and financial investment in HB443 (Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program) will enable Allegany County to continue to provide training to our residents, but also expand the economic base of our community. This project will serve as an important tool to provide entrepreneurial opportunity, workforce training, and community development for our County. If you have any questions about the support and commitment from Allegany College of Maryland, please feel free to contact me directly.

CYNTHIA S. BAMBARA, PRESIDENT

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