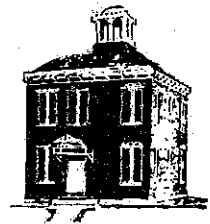


ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BELL TOWER BUILDING ■ 24 FREDERICK STREET ■ CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

301-722-2820 ■ FAX 301-722-5995

E-MAIL: info@alleganycountychamber.com



March 1, 2021

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

Re: HB1144 - Economic Development - Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Fund - Establishment

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser:

The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests the House Ways and Means Committee give a **Favorable Report** to House Bill 1144 - Economic Development - Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Fund - Establishment.

Over the past three decades, our community has lost thousands of living-wage jobs due to the closures of multiple large companies, many of which were manufacturing-related. The recent closure of the Verso paper mill, in part, contributes to the drop in businesses of 7.1%, as reported from 2010-2018. The task force has provided significant data that proves there are a number of key industries that can contribute to the overall economic health of the region, which in-turn, would increase the health of the economy across the state.

Greater opportunity and a brighter future in Western Maryland can be born from your support of the Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Fund. With respect, we ask that you give consideration to the potential that exists in this unique, but often-forgotten, part of the state, Mountain Maryland.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Juli R. McCoy
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
House Ways and Means Committee Members
Western Maryland Delegation