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**Senate Bill 308 -- *Environment - Statewide Green Business Certification Program*  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
February 2, 2022  
Support**

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce (“Chamber”) is a business organization comprised of small business, corporations, non-profits, and governmental agencies all working together for the betterment of the Howard County business community. Our mission is to provide advocacy, connections, and access to timely information to advance the growth and success of the Howard County business community. I write to you at this moment on behalf of our 650 plus member companies in support of SB 308.

Environmental issues related to climate change combined with consumer preferences for businesses large and small to be more environmentally sensitive are leading many businesses to adopt ecologically sustainable business practices. While this is commendable, it is often done on a business-by-business basis with no consistent metric for best practices. Moreover, each county within Maryland tends to have their green certification programs provided they have one at all. In this bill, we will have statewide standard by which all businesses large and small can be evaluated.

In the adoption of SB 308, businesses will be able to receive a designation as *Green Certified Business* thereby demonstrating to their customers and clients that they are committed to sustainable business practices. Consumer and client interest aside, businesses are frequently trying to distinguish themselves in the marketplace whether it is a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, the environment, and/or veteran causes. Equally important is the fact this certification is done on a volunteer basis.

**For reasons outlined above, the Chamber reiterates our support for this legislation and request a favorable vote of SB 308.**