

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB0453 – Economic Development – Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary:

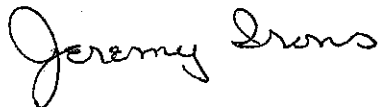
The Allegany County Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests the House Ways and Means Committee give a **Favorable Report** to Senate Bill 453 – Economic Development – Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program.

By creating a non-lapsing fund administered by TEDCO to support the expansion and establishment of makerspaces throughout Maryland would positively impact Western Maryland, specifically Western Maryland Works. Following the Luke Mill closure in 2019, swift coordination among county and state government, and Allegany College of Maryland, proved the importance of such a facility. Western Maryland Works allowed Luke Mill employees to transform their very specific skillset from pulp and paper mill work to new advanced manufacturing skills for jobs at other facilities.

Western Maryland Works is a unique, state-of-the-art facility and its location in Allegany County, Maryland will no doubt serve a vital role in Maryland's innovation economy, workforce development programs, STEM educational excellence, and startup activity. For these reasons, the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce encourages a **favorable** vote on SB0453.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeremy G. Irons
Legislative Committee Chair



Juli R. McCoy
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
House Ways and Means Committee Members
Allegany County Delegation