

StanleyBlack&Decker

Testimony of Stanley Black & Decker In Support of SB 0453 Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program

Stanley Black & Decker employs more than 2,000 people at its facilities in Maryland and has been a mainstay in the state since Black & Decker was founded in 1910.

As part of our commitment to Maryland and our purpose, “For those who make the world,” Stanley Black & Decker is committed to helping our employees and communities, particularly the next generation, gain the skills and expertise needed to thrive in this changing world.

Stanley Black & Decker supports SB 0453, the Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program, and its worthwhile mission to create educational opportunities and develop the workforce of tomorrow all while having a significant economic impact.

In Maryland, Stanley Black & Decker empowers students and makers, especially women and people of color, to pursue careers in STEAM education and the trade skills. The company is connected with the community in Maryland, engaging in career exploration with students, sponsoring trade schools and makerspaces, and challenging the status quo of a typical career. The company partners with nonprofits like Greenlight for Girls to encourage young women to engage with STEAM education at a young age.

Stanley Black & Decker supports racial equity partners especially those working in the STEAM and trades career paths. They partner with organizations like Black Women Build, Discovery Education, and Greenlight for Girls as well as many others. The company’s yearly Maker Month campaign also showcases diverse tradespeople around the world to highlight the unique women and men who make up the trade industry. During the campaign, the company highlights resources and partners to encourage people to learn about the trades.

Stanley Black & Decker aims to inspire makers and innovators to create a more sustainable world. Our long-term goal is to inspire 10 million individuals by 2030 through upskilling, promoting vocational and skills training, fostering Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) education and providing access to Makerspaces.

In the U.S. there are hundreds of thousands of open jobs in manufacturing, but there are not enough skilled workers to fill them. Further, according to a 2021 study by Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute, the manufacturing skills gap could result in approximately 2.1 million unfilled jobs by 2030. As a global manufacturer of the tools that help tradespeople get the job done, Stanley Black & Decker has a responsibility to support the skilled trades and do all that it can to empower the essential builders, makers and creators who keep our society running.

We recognize that our own workers, as well as those in the communities where we live and work, will require education, learning, upskilling and experience to ensure they can thrive in

this new context. We are committed to helping employees and people of the world gain the skills and expertise needed to secure jobs and revitalize communities.

Constructing a makerspace network would immediately catapult Maryland into a national leadership role in cultivating an innovation economy, and have profound implications on the next 25 years of economic growth, workforce development, STEM educational excellence, disaster preparedness, and startup activity.

For these reasons, Stanley Black & Decker encourages a favorable vote on SB0453.