



**Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce**

*In Support of  
Senate Bill 547—Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023*

*Wednesday, March 1, 2023  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee*

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 550 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on Senate Bill 547—Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023.

Access to broadband is important to economic development. A better internet connection offers greater access to shared platforms, prompt transfer of information and the ability to share files quickly and easily. It makes it easier for employees and customers to collaborate and communicate efficiently, and this can translate into revenue growth. Access to broadband is also crucial for so many important industries, including public safety, education and health care. House Bill 551 allows a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax for qualified broadband grants for broadband deployment. In addition, the bill provides an exemption from the sales and use tax for the sale of equipment related to providing internet service and deploying broadband.

We appreciate Governor Moore and the Administration for acknowledging and supporting increased access to broadband across the state. For this reason, we enthusiastically support Senate Bill 547 and urge a favorable vote.