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MAYOR

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SB0209

March 21, 2024

TO: Members of the House Ways & Means Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 0209 – Maryland Economic Development Commission-Alterations

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 0209.

SB 0209 ensures full state representation and adds representation for the Life Science Industry and the Manufacturing Industry to the Maryland Economic Development Commission. The bill alterations will ensure the Commission's ability to develop policies that will support the Life Science Industry and the Manufacturing Industry, both of which are important growth industries for Maryland. Moreover, the proposed incorporation of the Maryland Port Administration's strategic plan for the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore into the Commission's economic development strategic plan will further bolster the capabilities of both the Life Sciences and Manufacturing sectors by encouraging the highest benefits of importing and exporting their materials and products. Alignment with the Port as an economic development asset is critical.

The Life Science and Manufacturing sectors will expand the Maryland job market, thereby creating high-quality jobs at every level. In addition, strong growth industries such as Life Science and Manufacturing will attract ancillary investment and similar businesses to Maryland.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 0209.