



Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

In Support of

*Senate Bill 867—Economic Development—Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission-Alterations
And*

*Senate Bill 905—Maryland Technology Development Corporation—Maryland Advanced Manufacturing
Grant Program--Established*

March 5, 2026

Senate Finance Committee

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 600 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 867— Economic Development—Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission-Alterations and Senate Bill 905- Maryland Technology Development Corporation—Maryland Advanced Manufacturing Grant Program--Established.

Senate Bill 867 and Senate Bill 905, though different in their scopes, both create or enhance state-backed systems that develop Maryland’s technology ecosystem. They both position Maryland to compete nationally and globally in key sectors: regenerative medicine, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, space tech and aeronautics. These are all industries with high barriers to entry, strong growth projections and significant economic-multiplier effects. By enabling companies to expand facilities, acquire equipment and invest in research and development, employment is stimulated in future-oriented fields. In addition, in a State that has traditionally depended on federal agencies and contractors, these bills deepen the State’s presence in other industries, thereby diversifying our economic base and better insulating us against federal contracting fluctuations.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on both Senate Bill 867 and Senate Bill 905.