



House Bill 492

Small Business Development Center Network Fund - Minimum Appropriation

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: February 11, 2020

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 492. The bill would boost the capacity of the Maryland Small Business Center (SBDC) to promote, inform, and support new and existing small businesses across the state.

Local governments, just like the State, have a vested interest in economic development. Local economic growth creates jobs and increases salaries, expanding the tax base both locally and statewide. Counties promote economic development through their own programs and coordinate with the State to attract and retain businesses where they will be most beneficial to our economy.

The Maryland SBDC links private enterprise, government, higher education, and local economic development organizations to provide high-quality training, confidential consulting, and market and industry research to Maryland's small businesses.

Strengthening Maryland's small businesses contributes directly to the growth of local, state, and national economies. This in turn creates jobs, contributes to enhancing quality of life, and expands the local tax base – enabling counties to better provide core services for Maryland families and businesses.

Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 492.