



**House Bill 814 -- *Environment – Statewide Green Business Certification Program***  
**House Environment and Transportation Committee**  
**February 23, 2022**  
**Support with Amendments**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports as amended House Bill 814 -- *Environment - Statewide Green Business Certification Program*.

House Bill 814, as first drafted, requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to establish and administer a voluntary statewide green business certification program that recognizes businesses that reduce their environmental footprint and provides consumers with a way to identify certified green businesses. With proposed amendments, House Bill 814 would require the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center to conduct a study regarding the feasibility and potential value of enhancing the existing Maryland Green Registry to include a statewide green business certification program and an enhanced program that recognizes businesses that operate in a manner that maximizes triple bottom line benefits to the environment, economy, and society.

The bill would enhance Maryland's green business efforts by studying the creation of a program inspired by a successful entity already in place in Montgomery County. Montgomery County's Green Business Certification is a voluntary recognition program designed to encourage businesses and other organizations to take steps that reduce the ecological impact of their workplace. The program was created in 2009 through a partnership between the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, and Montgomery College.

A green business certification, and one that also offers businesses that operate in a manner that maximizes triple bottom line benefits to the environment, economy, and society, would provide a number of benefits. For businesses that wish to green their practices and reduce their ecological footprint, there would be an opportunity to do so and be recognized for these efforts. For businesses that also want to take that effort a step further by focusing on their economic and societal impact, House Bill 814, as amended, would provide for an opportunity to do that as well.

Generally, studying and eventually implementing a program that allows businesses, if they chose, to differentiate themselves in the marketplace through a commitment to sustainability and societal principles is good for Maryland's economy. Such a program would grow the ability for customers and other businesses to find workplaces that share their own principles for sustainability, societal, and economic practices.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 814 with amendments and respectfully requests a favorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*

Brian Levine / Vice President of Government Affairs  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
51 Monroe Street / Suite 1800  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
301-738-0015 / [www.mccc.md.com](http://www.mccc.md.com)