



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

## **HOUSE BILL 1139: CORPORATE INCOME TAX – RATE REDUCTION**

### **WAYS AND MEANS**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2019**

### **SUPPORT**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC"), as the voice of Montgomery County business, **supports House Bill 1139**, which would reduce the Maryland corporate income tax from 8.25% to 8.0% for tax year 2019, 7.5% for tax year 2020 and 7.00% for tax year 2021 and beyond.

Maryland's corporate income tax rate is relatively high nationally, and a number of states have reduced their corporate income tax rates recently. For example, Virginia's rate is now at 6.0% and North Carolina is at 3.0%. In addition (and as noted in the Fiscal Note), Maryland's corporate income tax provides a relatively modest amount of State revenues compared to the individual income tax and sales tax. Many distinguished economists have recommended that Maryland reduce its corporate income tax rate. In fact, the January 2016 Phase II report on taxes by the Maryland Economic Development and Business Climate Commission (the "Augustine Commission"), recommended reducing Maryland's corporate income tax to 7.0% over 3 years.

Maryland is consistently ranked as one of the least business-friendly states in the country in terms of tax climate and Maryland has a perception problem when it comes to its reputation as a state that is a leader in attracting businesses. Lowering the corporate income tax is one step that Maryland can take towards improving its reputation in the business community.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable report on House Bill 1139**.

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our over 500 members by advocating for increased 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 is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*