



Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
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January 11, 2019

The Honorable Ben Cardin  
U.S. Senate  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
U.S. Senate  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
412 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Sarbanes  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2370 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Trone  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1213 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, and Representatives Raskin, Sarbanes, and Trone:

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) urges Congress and the Administration to restore full operation of the federal government. Montgomery County is first in the nation as a contract provider of Health IT to the federal government, and second in the nation as a federal contract provider of all types of small business services.

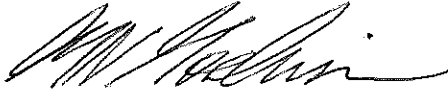
As the government shutdown continues, we hear from our members that the adverse consequences continue to grow in Maryland. Small businesses are unable to receive assistance from the Small Business Administration (SBA). Grants, contracts, and payments for work already performed continue to be delayed. Federal rulemakings are at a standstill and hundreds of thousands of federal employees and contractors go without pay.

In FY18, Maryland companies received \$35.2 billion in contracts from the federal government. 30.96% of those contracts were received from departments and agencies currently impacted by the shutdown, in an amount of \$10.9 billion. According to the Maryland Comptroller's Office, 250,000 Maryland workers are impacted by this partial government shutdown. Further, the Maryland Department of Labor has received 927 unemployment insurance benefit applications related to the shutdown.

According to a report released by House Small Business Committee Chair Nydia Velazquez, small firms nationally forgo 6,875 contract actions a day, worth \$301 million during a shutdown. Federal contractors could lose or be delayed in receiving \$200 million per day. Given Montgomery County's large contracting base, this is a significant impact on Maryland.

With each passing day, the situation for federal contractors only gets worse. During a 16-day shutdown in October of 2013, Montgomery County lost \$760,000 per day in income tax revenue. MCCC urges you to expeditiously move legislation to re-open the federal government. It is vital to Montgomery County and the contractors that support Maryland's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Godwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

Georgette "Gigi" Godwin  
President & CEO  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce