



*To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business*

**Senate Bill 174: More Opportunities for Marylanders Act of 2019**

Budget and Tax

February 27, 2019

**SUPPORT**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC"), as the voice of Montgomery County business, supports Senate Bill 174. This bill proposes an additional \$56.5 million in funding to provide extra help in Opportunity Zones. Additionally, the bill looks to provide workforce training and additional incentives tied to jobs. This is done through a new task force, state tax incentives, and workforce development.

Opportunity Zones were created under the federal tax law enacted in 2017 and are meant to encourage investment capital in communities struggling economically by providing investors with tax relief on capital gains. Montgomery County now has 14 areas designated as Opportunity Zones (OZ) which allow investors to receive federal tax incentives by re-investing their capital gains into select communities. Opportunity funds can be used in conjunction with other state and local programs such as Maryland Arts & Entertainment Districts, Maryland Enterprise Zones, and Maryland RISE Zones. Several of these zones are next to future Purple Line stations.

The Chamber supports proposals to expand incentives for investors as these are likely to encourage economic activity that will lead to jobs and benefit affected communities.

For these reasons, **we request Senate Bill 174 be given a favorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our nearly 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.*