

## **Economic Development**

**Senate Bill 589 (2024) – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission – Funding** increased the State’s annual funding for the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) from \$900,000 to \$1,000,000. This legislation also guarantees future State support for this important resource for Southern Maryland farmers by repealing the sunset of the funding originally established by **Senate Bill 378 (2022) – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission**

**Senate Bill 51 (2021) – Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland – Property Management – Southern Maryland Regional Agricultural Center** authorized the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to act as the property manager for the new Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) being built in Charlotte Hall. This bill instituted the technical change necessary to allow the Tri-County Council to act as property manager for the RAC, which will in turn allow the SMADC to operate the facility, reflecting how all parties involved want to move forward and putting the statute in line with the memorandum of understanding for this project.

**Senate Bill 183 (2024) – State Procurement – Prompt Payment of Suppliers** ensured that suppliers for State projects are compensated appropriately and quickly. This bill was introduced following many discussions with owners of local small businesses who were not paid timely for their work or materials on State projects; this lack of payment contributed to many delays on the Leonardtown Route 5 expansion project.

**Senate Bill 826 (2022) – Economic Development – Maryland Watermen’s Microloan Program – Establishment** established the Maryland Watermen’s Microloan Program to provide loans to qualified commercial fishermen to continue commercial operations in the State. This program was revised by **Senate Bill 32 (2024) – Economic Development – Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation – Loans** to ensure that Maryland watermen who hold commercial licenses from the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) would be eligible for this microloan program. Senate Bill 32 also included provisions to allow oyster shucking houses to have access to a separate microloan program intended to benefit seafood processing projects in our State.

**Senate Bill 516 (2024) – Economic Development – Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission** established the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission to promote innovation in the fields of space exploration and commercial aerospace opportunities. Representatives of St. Mary’s County government and Senator Bailey worked with the sponsors of this legislation to incorporate amendments which support and grow the aerospace industry, which is a key part of our local economy in District 29.

**Senate Bill 574 (2024) – Sales and Use Tax Exemption – Aircraft Parts and Equipment – Repeal of Reporting Requirement and Extension of Sunset** extended the State’s sales tax exemption for materials, parts, or equipment used to repair, maintain, or upgrade aircraft or the avionics systems of an aircraft. This legislation directly impacts St. Mary’s County Airport and its related businesses.