JOINT STATEMENT
ON REGIONAL COOPERATION
AMONG
LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS
TO CREATE
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

We, the undersigned, represent the local Economic Development Organizations of six counties in the Maryland Capital Region, surrounding Washington DC. The six counties are Anne Arundel, Charles, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George’s.

Collectively, our Counties represent 55% of Maryland’s population with 3.3 million citizens and 1.4 million jobs or over 52% of the State’s economy. While we are all fully and passionately committed to pursuing economic growth and prosperity for our specific Counties, we recognize that we are each part of a larger region, both as part of the State of Maryland and within the Greater Washington D.C. area. Each County has unique strengths and resources that direct our individual economic development strategies, but the economic success of each County is inextricably linked to the Greater Washington DC region and to the State of Maryland.

This commonality of interests has brought us together to explore economic development collaboration on a regional level. This Joint Statement is intended to outline our commitment to growing a stronger Maryland National Capital Region.

Collectively, there are many existing areas where we already collaborate on a regional basis in economic development. The six below signed organizations currently recognize that we are stronger together marketing as a region for out-of-market business attraction. Our collective assets present a strong business case and marketing these resources together helps raise our profile and provides an array of options to prospective clients. Additionally, as it relates to existing, in-market companies, we agree to a protocol of contacting each other when a business or company located in one jurisdiction indicates an interest in a location in another County.

Further, there is a consensus that with regard to businesses located in other Maryland jurisdictions, we agree to only reactive business development driven by such businesses’ clear interest in relocating to our counties. We agree that we are each entitled and obligated to strongly promote the assets and strengths of our own jurisdictions, but that there is no place for disparaging competitors. We further state that it is standard practice to include resources and assets located in neighboring jurisdictions in our individual marketing and prospect pursuits efforts.
To support opportunities for joint regional collaboration, we agree to:

1. Explore regional joint marketing, branding, and promotional programming where the collective strengths of each County will enhance and benefit all the Undersigned;

2. Establish shared economic development rules of ethical marketing and branding;

3. Formalize protocols for communication to address business prospects and relocation;

4. Evaluate multi-county or state-level policy changes to address competitiveness issues for the Capital Region, or that may encourage regional growth in specific industry sectors;

5. Consider collective efforts in support or pursuit of targeted industry sectors where we have the opportunity to capitalize on unique assets or resources within the Maryland National Capital Region;

6. Connect other regional economic development partners when a broader economic development strategy will directly benefit the entire National Capital Region;

7. Engage federal and state partners towards regional initiatives and solutions; and

8. Coordinate joint efforts to support a regional economic recovery from emergencies and crises, such as COVID-19, that collectively affect our communities.

The above list is not exhaustive but represents a starting point for regional collaboration.

We, the undersigned, on April 1, 2020, in good faith, agree to this Joint Statement for Regional Collaboration in Economic Development and hereby formalize the creation of the Maryland National Capital Region Economic Development Alliance.

_Jill Seamon_  
Anne Arundel County  
Economic Development Corporation

_Darrell Brown_  
Charles County  
Department of Economic Development

_Helen Propheter_  
Frederick County  
Office of Economic Development

_Larry Twele_  
Howard County  
Economic Development Authority

_Benjamin H. Wu_  
Montgomery County  
Economic Development Corporation

_David S. Iannucci_  
Prince George’s County  
Economic Development Corporation
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Jill Seamon
Anne Arundel County
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Darrell Brown

Charles County
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Helen Propheter
Frederick County
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Larry Twele
Howard County
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Benjamin H. Wu
Montgomery County
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David S. Iannucci
Prince George’s County