



October 27, 2023

Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

I am writing on behalf of TruBlu Cleaning Pros, LLC and the minority businesses with which we partner and support. We offer this letter in support of Bill 37-23 (Minority Owned Businesses) and ask that you extend the sunset date to December 31, 2024.

We support the extension of the sunset date for the minority owned business purchasing program and the study to make relevant amendments regarding procurement that will benefit more socially disadvantaged businesses. While this Bill provides for the extension of the sunset date until December 2023 to allow for the completion of the contracted Disparity Study, we encourage the permanent adoption of this law. In its original intent the program was designed to protect the interest of a segment of the public that has had historic discrimination and is frequently underserved in the engagement of procurement and other business opportunities. Minority, Female and Disabled-owned (MFD) businesses that are certified benefit by gaining access to prime contractor and subcontractor opportunities with County government agencies. Like State of Maryland MBE efforts to ensure minority participation in procurement, the MFD program has served as a remedy to the effects of discrimination.

We applaud the foresight of Councilmembers Jawando and Sayles as Lead Sponsors. But it is equally critical that we recognize the commitment and support of the co-sponsors, which includes all County Council members. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to ensuring Montgomery County is a model for other communities and demonstrating the continuing solutions to creating a more equitable business procurement environment.

Considering the challenges to minority business and court rulings impacting minority business development, we urge you to extend the sunset of this program, obtain and learn from the disparity report, and work with stakeholders to ensure ongoing access to procurement opportunities for minority-owned businesses, facilitating wealth generation and business expansion.

Very Respectfully,

Ian Johnson
TruBlu Cleaning Pros, LLC
President/Owner