



MID-COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Luisa Montero-Diaz
Mid-County RSC Director

February 22, 2017

The Honorable Roger Berliner
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear President Berliner:

The MCCAB appreciates the effort of the County Council and Executive Leggett in the continued development of small and start-up businesses, and our County's workforce. However, at this time, we have questions and concerns regarding the implementation and effectiveness of Bill 49-16 for the County overall.

While we support initiatives aimed at helping small businesses and entrepreneurs, our real concern is the County's level of investment and involvement. Firstly, the criteria for the loan distribution is determined by WorkSource Montgomery without oversight by the County. This allows WorkSource Montgomery to forward their objectives while eliminating the ability for the County to advance its own.

Secondly, with the County contributing a large portion of initial funds to the micro loan program, would the County receive a return on this investment in the form of interest and repayment or is this benefit paid to WorkSource Montgomery? We were also curious as to the type of financial involvement. Will it be in the form of continued contributions or one large initial payment?

Thirdly, the details of the annual report seem incomplete. We understand that the annual report updates the progress of the program and repayments, however, it appears to not include the number of borrowers that have failed, or the progress and growth of the new businesses. We suggest a more continuous analysis with direct involvement and oversight from the County administration.

Thank you for your time and consideration acknowledging our concerns on Bill 49-16. We look forward to your answers and possible insight for our small and start-up businesses, and our County's workforce.

Sincerely,

Francisco Romero
MCCAB Chair