



## Maryland

### COMMERCE SUBCABINET

September 25, 2023

World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore

17<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Minutes

#### Subcabinet:

- Kevin Anderson, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Chair
- Kevin Atticks, Secretary of Agriculture – Virtual
- Y. Maria Martinez, Special Secretary, Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) – Virtual
- Robyne Chaconas, Deputy Director for our Community Development Administration for Jake Day, Secretary, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) – Virtual
- Kamil Williams, Special Advisor for Joshua Kurtz, Secretary, Department of Natural Resources – Virtual
- Michael Higgs, Director, State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)
- Paul Wiedefeld, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Portia Wu, Secretary, Department of Labor
- Joe Griffiths, AICP, Local Assistance and Technical Trainer for Rebecca Flora, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)
- Sanjay Rai, Secretary, Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
- Serena McIlwain, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Susan C. Lee, Secretary of State (SoS)

#### Guests:

- Tunji Adenekan, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
- Tom Hucker, Contractor, U.S. Department of Energy
- Hans Riemer, Contractor, U.S. Department of Energy
- Matthew Verghese, Senior Advisor & Director of Federal Relations, Governor’s Washington Office – Virtual
- Hannah Cooper, Governor’s Washington Office – Virtual
- Samantha Biddle, Deputy Secretary, MDOT
- Nicola Tran, DHCD – Virtual
- Eric Coffman, Maryland Energy Administration
- Eduardo Hayden, GOSBA
- Michael Lore, Deputy Secretary of State, SoS – Virtual
- Alexandria Liu, Chief of Staff, SoS
- Signe Pringle, Deputy Secretary, Commerce
- Julie Woepke, Executive Director, MEDC
- Jayson Knott, Senior Director, Commerce
- Jennifer LaHatte, Managing Director, OPRGA, Commerce

## **I. Meeting called to Order**

Secretary Anderson called the meeting to order at 1:05pm and called for any additions to the Agenda. There being none, due to lack of a quorum, Secretary Anderson held the review and vote of the August 28<sup>th</sup> minutes, until a quorum was present.

## **II. Using the Inflation Reduction Act to help States reach their Climate Goals**

Mr. Tom Hucker, Senior Consultant, Loan Program Office, U.S. Department of Energy addressed the Subcabinet, thanking them for the opportunity to present a low interest program to assist State Agencies and the private sector achieve climate goals as it relates to new construction and retrofitting properties. Mr. Hucker described the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Loan Program Office which functions like a bank within DOE, was created in 2005 and received broad new authority and vast funding from the Inflation Reduction Act. He provided an overview of current projects and opportunities and the willingness to accept, advise and vet individual projects with the Loan Office for project. He reviewed the portfolio impact, monthly application activity report, eligibility, and examples of projects.

Mr. Hans Riemer, Senior Consultant Loan Program Office, DOE also addressed the Subcabinet and provided additional information and emphasized that over \$40 billion in innovative clean energy and advanced transportation loans and commitments have been secured to date. Mr. Riemer and Mr. Hucker offered assistance to Maryland Agencies to partner with the private sector to achieve the state's climate goals.

Mr. Hucker and Mr. Riemer then answered questions from the Subcabinet. Questions and discussion included the use of tax credits as the State's contribution to projects, Electric Vehicle (EV) charger station partnerships, eligibility of waste to energy projects, bus maintenance facility upgrades with a public private sector model, partnering for student housing renovations, coordination with the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), etc...

Secretary Anderson thanked Mr. Hucker and Mr. Riemer for their presentation and invited Secretaries to reach out to them directly.

## **III. Review and Approval of August 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

As a quorum was met, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the August 29, 2023 meeting approved.

## **IV. Commerce Presentation - Office of International Investment & Trade**

Secretary Kevin Anderson began his presentation by reviewing the Commerce organization chart illustrating the offices within the Department, highlighting the Office of International Investment and Trade (OIIT) and introducing Deputy Secretary Signe Pringle to present the functions and activities of OIIT on behalf of the Senior Director. Ms. Pringle addressed the Subcabinet and provided a comprehensive overview of OIIT, highlighting the 19 foreign offices; export services; ExportMD program; Trade Show support and listing the FY24 Trade Shows; federal funding which supports the exporting programs; and other services such as the U.S. Commercial Service and Export-Import Bank Reimbursement and the Soft Landing Exchange Program. She added the marketing and promotional efforts underway, the Global Gateway – Soft Landing successful program and return on investment measurements.

Ms. Pringle then answered questions from the Subcabinet. Discussion included the eligibility criteria for businesses to take part of the programs; export readiness programs; opportunity with higher education with foreign students to retain workforce and attract foreign investment; partnerships with the University of Maryland Smith School of Business Center for Global Business programs available to businesses; and marketing focus areas.

**V. Regional Resources Workgroup**

Mr. Joe Griffiths, AICP, Local Assistance and Technical Trainer, Department of Planning addressed the Subcabinet and provided an overview of the Regional Resources Teams Reports. Significant time was given to discuss the Reports purpose, evolution, reporting participation, various methods to transmit information and frequency. It was concluded that Mr. Griffiths will collaborate with the Team Leaders for a form that is forward thinking, less reporting, real time, identify methods to engage team members – questioning what the team can assist agency representatives and other methods to post upcoming events that can be collaborations. The Subcabinet was reminded of the Business Events Calendar on the Maryland Business Express website.

**VI. Good of the Order**

Secretary Wu reminded the Subcabinet that the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program begins October 1, 2023.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Future 2023 Meeting dates: October 16, November 14, and December 18