



Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 4, 2016

The Honorable Derrick L. Davis
Chairman
Prince George's County Council
County Administration Building
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Dear Chairman Davis:

Enclosed for the County Council's consideration is a Resolution for the purpose of approving the designation of the Greater College Park Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise (RISE) Zone, near the University of Maryland College Park (the "University of Maryland"). The Greater College Park RISE Zone, centered around the State's flagship university and County's largest single-site employer, will increase the number of jobs within the County as well as the County's tax base.

The purpose of the RISE Zone Program is to access institutional assets that have a strong and demonstrated history of commitment to economic development and revitalization in the communities in which they are located. Businesses that plan to locate within a RISE zone, or existing businesses that significantly expand within a RISE zone, may qualify for real property tax credits and income tax credits. A business concierge with the Maryland Department of Commerce will be available to assist businesses with: (1) identifying and utilizing other State programs for which the businesses may qualify; and (2) with completing and submitting various permitting and licensing applications.

The University of Maryland, as a "qualified institution," is eligible to apply for the designation of a RISE zone. The University of Maryland, the City of College Park, the Town of Riverdale Park and the County are jointly applying to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce for the designation of the Greater College Park RISE Zone. As part of the application process, State law requires county and municipal corporations to approve the designation of a RISE zone located within their respective boundaries.

The County Council's favorable consideration of this legislation is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office or David S. Iannucci, Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development at (301) 952-5867.

Sincerely,

Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

Enclosures

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