

June 20, 2024

Honorable Members of the Montgomery County Council,

My name is Marji Graf, the President and CEO of the Greater Rockville Chamber of Commerce. I am submitting written testimony to express my strong support for the Montgomery County Council's MOVE Act. (Make Office Vacancy Extinct). The "MOVE" Act will expand grants for businesses to move to and expand their businesses in Montgomery County.

The MOVE Act would make the MOVE program a permanent component of the Economic Development Fund, providing an annual incentive for businesses to relocate to Montgomery County and utilize vacant office space. The legislation would also expand program eligibility to businesses already located in the county that want to expand their office footprint. The legislation also removes the 20,000 square footage cap to qualify for the program and increases the maximum funding award from \$80,000 to \$150,000. In FY23, the MOVE program supported 22 companies across a variety of industry sectors that leased a total of 92,720 square feet.

"The MOVE Act will serve to assist more businesses to both come to Montgomery County as well as those that wish to expand and stay in Montgomery County. I look forward to seeing the positive results of this program."

In conclusion, I urge you to support the Montgomery County Maryland MOVE Act. By doing so, you will not only help Rockville businesses thrive, but also ensure a more sustainable and equitable future for all residents of Montgomery County. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Marji Graf, President & CEO Greater Rockville Chamber of Commerce 1 Research Court, Suite 450, Rockville, MD 20850 301-424-9300