

Appalachian Maryland, Baltimore Metropolitan Area and Washington Metropolitan Area have development plans which include significant economic development components; and

WHEREAS, Twelve counties in Maryland belong to the two development districts recognized by the Economic Development Administration of the Federal government; and

WHEREAS, Several State agencies, principally the Departments of Economic and Community Development, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Transportation administer programs and engage in activities designed to promote economic development on a Statewide basis; and

WHEREAS, The Report of the Maryland Commission on the Function of Government recommended that economic development should remain a joint parallel function of local and State government, with local governments having principal responsibility for economic development and the Department of Economic and Community Development having chief responsibility for assisting and coordinating local economic development efforts; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Economic and Community Development has recently completed the first year of effort for an overall State Economic Development Program for the State of Maryland, which would constitute a major step toward better public management of economic affairs of the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Department has stated that one of the features of the Maryland Statewide Economic Plan which distinguishes it from past experiences in Maryland and other states is a determination to engage local officials and residents in the planning process from the very beginning; and

WHEREAS, One of the initial steps in preparation of the overall State Economic Development Program was an exploration by staff of the Department of Economic and Community Development of local and regional issues, through discussions with local community leaders, businessmen, and politicians, with such discussions designed to result in the acceptance by Maryland citizens of the economic development process and its resulting State Economic Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, The final step in implementing a State Economic Development Plan will be an impact analysis phase, involving an analysis of the economic development process on the State's economy; and

WHEREAS, The Short Range/Long Range Plan of the Office of Development Planning of the Department of Economic and Community Development has stated that one of the basic needs which motivated the Economic Development Plan process was a need for consistent standards and strategies among substate and regional organizations; and