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Repeal of Computer Services Sales Tax Highlights Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce 2008 Legislative Agenda

ROCKVILLE, MD – The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce calls for an immediate repeal of the newly imposed tax on computer services as it disproportionately impacts Maryland small businesses and harms the state’s competitiveness.

“Computer services providers already operate at the thinnest of margins and increasing their costs will have a severely negative impact on one of the most vibrant sectors of our economy,” said Georgette “Gigi” Godwin, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO. “In addition, small businesses that must contract out their computer services face higher costs at a time when the economy is already slowing, which can only be bad for business.”

“Failing to repeal the computer services sales tax will result in revenue and job losses among Maryland companies, making an already tenuous economic situation worse,” said Henry Bernstein, Vice Chair of the Chamber’s Economic Development Committee and Senior Vice President of Scheer Partners. “This tax runs counter to the State’s economic development and workforce creation goals.”

Additional Legislative Priorities

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce advocates for investments in a balanced transportation system in order to enhance Maryland’s competitiveness, promote economic growth and maintain homeland security. The MCCC supports the construction of major road and transit projects that will do the most to relieve congestion, including the Purple Line, the Corridor Cities Transitway and other transportation priorities identified in the Montgomery County 10-year transportation plan.

The MCCC also supports the development and funding of new tools to encourage capital formation of new and growing technologies companies, such as tax credits for research and development and the growth of a statewide network of business incubators.

Access to primary, secondary and higher education remains high on the MCCC agenda, with the Chamber calling for ongoing State support of our strong educational system.

The Chamber opposes efforts to restrict energy supplies that would impose unreasonable costs on Montgomery County residential and business consumers and support initiatives to encourage energy conservation and efficiency.

About the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce serves its business membership by providing members with the opportunity to connect with one another and by advocating for an improved local and Maryland-wide business climate through effective legislative and political action.

The Chamber has more than 600 business members, ranging from Fortune 500 multinationals to sole proprietorships. The current Chairman of the Board is Edward Hall Asher, President and COO of the Chevy Chase Land Company. For more information about the Chamber, visit <http://www.montgomerycountychamber.com>.