Company Letterhead

To: Maryland State Department of Education, Office of College and Career Pathways
From: [Sample]
Date: {Sample}
Subject: Joint Letter of Support for Credential Application

Dear Committee,

[County Name] is pleased to submit this application for the inclusion of **[Insert Credential Name]** as a new industry-recognized credential (IRC) to the state-approved list. This submission represents a collaborative effort between **[Community College Name], [Local Education Agency Name], [Local Workforce Board Name]**, and **[Industry Partner Names]**. Our collective goal is to ensure that the proposed IRCs align with industry standards and meet the workforce demands of our region, thereby enhancing the career readiness of our students.

In compliance with the state's criteria, our application includes verifying information demonstrating that the proposed IRCs meet the following seven core criteria: relevance to current industry needs, alignment with academic standards, validation by multiple employers, evidence of postsecondary opportunities, portability, stackability with other credentials, and a structured assessment process. We believe that these IRCs will significantly contribute to the skill development and employability of our students, providing them with a competitive edge in the job market. Our collaborative effort underscores our commitment to fostering a robust educational and workforce development ecosystem in **[County Name]**.

Additionally, please note that the signature from a Local Education Agency representative is required on all applications for youth apprenticeships, ensuring proper authorization and coordination. Furthermore, each application must include two or more signatures to validate the collaborative effort and commitment of the involved parties.

Signatories:

- [Name], [Title], [Local Education Agency Name, as applicable]
- [Name], [Title], [Community College Name, as applicable]
- [Name], [Title], [Local Workforce Board Name, as applicable]
- [Name], [Title], [Industry Partner Name(s), as applicable]
- [Name], [Title], [Other, as applicable]

Application Artifacts for New Industry Recognized Credential

Core Criteria

1. Aligns with In-Demand Occupations

Lightcast data shows 16 total job postings for Remote Sensing Technicians Onet Code 19-4099.03 between Sept 2023-July 2024 in Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Montgomery County, and Talbot County.

View the attached information from Maryland Workforce Exchange - Job Market Trends provides evidence that "drone pilot" has both a bright outlook nationally and is a green career.

2. Provides Documented Outcomes

Lightcast data shows there are 97 total job postings across the state of Maryland for ONet code 27-4031.00 for Camera Operators, Television, Video, and Film and ONet code 17-3024.00 for Electro-Mechanical and Mechatronic Technologies and Technicians.

View the attachment information from Maryland Workforce Exchange that "drone pilot" provides a family sustaining wage at the 25th percentile for Electro-Mechanical and Mechatronic Technologies and Technicians and 1,698 positions in Camera Operators, Television, Video, and Film and for the related occupational group of Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations.

3. Validated by Industry

The US Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration validates the FAA Part 107 Drone Pilot License

ApprenticeshipUSA recognizes Drone Pilots with Onet Code 19-4099.03 for Remote Sensing Technicians

4. Assessment Based

The assessment process is documented online and in full.

5. Standards-Driven

The occupational standards for becoming a drone pilot under the FAA's Small UAS Rule (Part 107) are listed under the "Eligibility" and "Requirements for Remote Pilot Certificate" sections. These standards include being at least 16 years old, able to read, speak, write, and understand English, being in a physical and mental condition to safely fly a drone, and passing the initial aeronautical knowledge exam.

6. Attainable and Accessible

Anyone over the age of 16 qualifies.

7. Portable

Lightcast data shows 16 total job postings for Remote Sensing Technicians Onet Code 19-4099.03 between Sept 2023-July 2024 in Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Montgomery County, and Talbot County.

At the time of this application Maryland Workforce Exchange indicates there are 3 different counties that have job openings for commercial drone pilots.

Optional, but Preferable Criteria

8. Stackable

Carroll Community College offers an Associate's Degree in drone technology where students learn the theoretical and practical skills necessary to operate and maintain Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems with National Airspace System guidelines.

University of Maryland operates one of the FAA's designated UAS Test Sites. This site is part of the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP) and provides a platform for testing and developing drone technologies. The Geographical Sciences Department offers courses and conducts research involving Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing, which include the use of drones for data collection and analysis. UMD's Center for Environmental Science uses drones in various research projects related to environmental monitoring, including studying wildlife, vegetation, and water quality in academic programs of study.

9. Renewable

The FAA Part 107 certification requires drone pilots to complete recurrent training every 24 months. This training ensures that pilots stay current with the latest regulations, safety procedures, and operational requirements. Instead of the initial knowledge test, the recurrent training involves an online course followed by an exam. The FAA provides the recurrent course for free, focusing on the core areas necessary for safe drone operations, including updates to regulations and new best practices.