



Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

*In Opposition to
Senate Bill 803—Labor and Employment—Payment of Minimum Wage—Tipped Employees
March 2, 2023
Senate Finance Committee*

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 550 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments in opposition to Senate Bill 803—Labor and Employment-Payment of Minimum Wage-Tipped Employees.

The Greater Bethesda Chamber is opposed to legislation like Senate Bill 803 that would eliminate the tipped wage, even if that change is phased in over time. Such a policy shift would have a detrimental effect on restaurants, who already operate with razor-thin margins. In addition, Maryland's restaurants continue to struggle as they recover from the COVID pandemic. Many would be forced to increase menu prices and reduce staff.

We strongly believe the current tipping model in restaurants provides an opportunity for workers to earn far beyond minimum wage while never making less than minimum wage. For this reason, we strongly oppose Senate Bill 803 and urge a favorable vote.