



HB 1306 - Admissions and Amusement Tax - Food and Beverages
House Ways and Means Committee
February 27, 2024
Position: Unfavorable

Dear Chairman Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1306 - Admissions and Amusement Tax - Food and Beverages

My name is Thomas Wienholt, and I am the Vice President of Horizon Cinemas. We are a small family-owned movie theatre company with 4 locations in MD. I am concerned this bill will lead to implementation of an additional 2% concession tax which will financially hurt our company.

Our company is still recovering from the pandemic after forced closures in 2020 and 2021. Attendance is still significantly below pre-pandemic levels. In fact, we had to close one of our locations in February of 2023 (Beltway Plaza in Overlea). Also, the recent Hollywood labor strikes have reduced the number of movies being released, which has had a major impact on attendance. Another major challenge has been the increase in the minimum wage. This has forced us to raise prices to compensate. Another tax increase will do the same. We simply do not need another challenge to overcome in our efforts to stay in business.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wienholt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Wienholt, VP