



3/7/24

Dear Delegates,

I am writing to oppose HB1515 against implementing a 5% on services. I am surprised to hear about this so last minute. Although I understand the need for money for power stations and electric vehicles... I am all about the environment!! How are you implementing the plan to ban all vehicles and make people purchase electric vehicles in just 6 years? I would like to see a well thought out plan that implements this and what about compliance of the people? Have you done studies about if this is going to work with the people giving up their cars, motorcycles, boats or how are they going to afford electric vehicles? It is not giving your constituents time to be well informed and aware enough to oppose or even agree!

In addition, our area has an enormous cost of living already. Businesses like mine- Eco Adventures, (Conservation, education an enrichment facility) are just bouncing back from Covid losses. This is a domino effect that will have a huge impact on our economy. It literally affects everyone. Not only do we already have a high cost of living, but add 5% + to that for everything we do now. Also as business owners, not only do we have to raise 5% prices, but add a yearly regular cost of living 3-7% every year. Although I am not opposed to the min wage increase because the cost of living is so high in MD, we JUST got hit hard with the extra wages increases across the board to make up for the even higher cost of living!! This domino effect means the cost of all services and goods will increase and pass on to the consumer!! So the cost of increases will be even higher than 5% when it is all said and done. The end result, is some of my clients may not sign up their kids anymore because they simply cannot afford it anymore and our educational programs are considered enrichment an not necessary. Our revenue will decrease while the costs increase and many businesses will go out of business!!

I see the good intentions for this however, I do not think the timeline is realistic, I would like to see the plan of action, and do not think this a good time to implement. Please consider opposing this bill.

Sincerely,

Mei Len Sanchez-Barr and Dr. Brady Barr

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