



317 Eastern Blvd, Middle River, MD 21220 | 410-686-7400

My name is Kenneth Adam. I am one of the owners and operators of the Bengies Drive-In Theatre in Baltimore County. I strongly oppose HB1306. I understand this bill does not automatically apply an additional 2% tax on our food and beverage sales, but why open the door for it to happen later? This additional tax will only negatively impact our business. Why should we be put at a disadvantage and have to charge our customers 2% more in taxes for food and beverages than the restaurants next door to us? It has the potential to drive our customers to eat at other restaurants to save money before coming to our theatre to watch a movie. This theatre survives because of snack bar sales that we offer at fair, competitive prices. We do not charge more for food and beverages because we have a captive audience. A large percentage of the box office ticket sales goes to movie licensing fees the movie studios charge, plus ten percent to the State of Maryland for Admission and Amusement tax.

Attendance at the theatre is down due to various factors. Movie studios are choosing to release their titles to their streaming services on the day and date of the theatrical release. They are shortening the theatrical release window (time in movie theatres) to get movies to their streaming services sooner. Also, Hollywood is coming off of a labor strike, hurting the movie supply. We do not want to give our customers another reason not to attend.

We have already had to increase food and beverage prices because of inflation, supply chain issues, and the yearly minimum wage increases. The thought of having to increase prices again due to an additional tax is worrying, and it may even threaten the survival of our small business.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Adam
Owner
Bengies Drive-In Theatre