

To Maryland Representatives:

I have worked in the state of Maryland for the Gaithersburg, Maryland based CPA firm Lanigan Ryan, PC for 27 years now. I am currently a Partner with the firm and have been so for the last 17 years. I am concerned that the legislation is considering a sales tax for professional services (HR 1554). As you are aware, this will add additional costs to the many businesses operating in Maryland. Many of these businesses are already struggling on how to navigate the current economic environment.

There are many warning signs already for the economy. With DOGE, many citizens are losing their jobs, or may be losing their jobs. One of our employees is considering relocating back to St. Louis, as her husband has just lost his job with the FDA. We also have many clients who are government contractors that are struggling with budget cuts and termination of contracts with the Federal government. They are currently having to make decisions on whether to cut staff. There is also concern with many companies regarding the effect of tariffs on their business. Even President Trump is openly discussing the possibility of a recession along with the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank.

In short, I do not believe this is the time to create an additional burden on the businesses in Maryland. There is already huge stress among these businesses. Our firm, and our clients are small businesses that are privately owned. This additional tax will further strain their ability to hire personnel, and invest in their businesses.

Please vote against HB 1554.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BK Pollack', with a long, sweeping checkmark-like stroke extending from the end.

Brian K. Pollack, CPA