

My name is Karen Brown. I have had a small bookkeeping business since 2000 offering bookkeeping and Quickbooks services to local businesses who do not need a full time bookkeeper. I was born and raised in Easton, MD and raised my family here. I plan to continue living here and would like to retire here. I am NOT in favor of HB 1554 to tax my services to my clients.

For several reasons I do not agree with this bill. First and foremost the additional cost to my clients. Small business are struggling with costs as it is. I try not to raise my fees annually but with the cost of living many small businesses like myself have been forced to raise their fees onto their clients to afford to stay in business. Adding an additional tax only adds to the burden. The tax will impact me on the other side as well as many of the other services that are in the bill I will be paying sales tax as well for consultants, IT, etc. This takes away from my profit which causes me to have to raise fees again.

Another reason is the extra administrative time it will take for accounting for the sales tax. That takes more time for me to handle taxes and away from doing work for my clients.

The bookkeeping and accounting market has become much more competitive with many companies offering “online” bookkeepers. Many clients could be forced to hire remote bookkeepers that they do not have to pay sales tax.

Please consider not letting this go through – let’s keep the small businesses in Maryland and support them. We are the backbone of Maryland and local economies.