



**HB 997 – Admissions and Amusement Tax – Food and Beverages**

**In the House – Ways and Means Committee**

**February 24, 2025**

**Position: Unfavorable**

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

I am writing in opposition to HB 997 - 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 3 locations in MD. I am concerned this bill will lead to implementation of an additional 3% 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. 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.

As a result of these challenges, we recently had to close two of our five Baltimore area locations. Our Beltway Plaza location in Overlea closed in February 2023, and our Sun Valley Plaza location in Glen Burnie closed in October 2024.

Another tax increase will do even more harm to our remaining locations. 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**