



My Name is Chris Warthen, I am the Assistant Operations Manager for The George J Falter Company located @3501 Benson Avenue Baltimore Md 21227. We are the oldest Candy distributor in Maryland. We were founded in Baltimore City in 1878, and the same Falter family still owns and operates the company today. We have grown to carry a full line of convenience store items. We fear that the long-term future of the company and the 170 plus families we employ are in jeopardy with the continued TAX attacks the state of Maryland is forcing on us.

We are against HB 1554, Sale and Use Tax, Taxable Business Services. We are a distributing company that will indirectly be affected by this tax. All of our customers will be directly affected. I'm speaking for all our employees, and I would guess most people who live in Maryland. With everything going on the world at a federal and local level, Maryland, families cannot afford a 2.5% increase. We would lose business if HB1554 were to pass and that would force us to lay off employees.

I'm so confused with what the State is doing that my head is spinning. Every time you pass a new tax you are hurting the hard working families who live in Maryland. The exact families you think you're helping are the ones who can't afford to pay more taxes. How are families living paycheck to paycheck supposed to be able to continue to live with a 2.5% cost increase? Businesses can't magically create more money to pay employees. Families will be forced to adjust the way they live. Most will likely adjust the foods they buy. Being forced to buy less expensive, less healthy foods which have a long term impact on the State. Maybe they will have to skip some meals to keep a roof over their head. Christmas will be less if they can even continue to afford a Christmas. Vacations will no longer exist. Hotels and rentals will suffer, all the businesses that go along with a vacation will be hit hard. The list goes on and on. Crime will continue to rise, as people who are already struggling will feel they have no other option.

Sadly, If HB 1554 were to pass more and more Maryland owned businesses who do things the right way will suffer. I owned a lawn and landscape business for 20 years. It was always difficult to be competitive with all the illegitimate competition. The businesses who do things the right way are the ones you're hurting! All of the illegal uninsured competition will thrive. How about you look at the companies who aren't paying all the current taxes instead of creating a new tax.

It seems funny to me that you pass these tax increases before you look at the wasteful spending yet that's exactly what a family will be forced to do. Does the State truly audit itself? Do you look at ways to cut spending. Let's start there and then see if it's really necessary to create a new tax that will put more of a burden on the families who live and work in Maryland.

How about you take a good look at how the State of Maryland is spending our hard earned tax dollars, before you create a new tax!

Stop the TAX ATTACK on the people who live and work in Maryland!

We ask that you vote against HB1554.