



**HB 997 – Admissions and Amusement Tax – Food and Beverages**  
**In the House – Ways and Means Committee**  
**February 24, 2025**  
**Position: Unfavorable**

Dear Chairman Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, and Members of the Committee,

I, David Phillips (COO & CFO of R/C Theatres), am writing in opposition to HB 997 – Admissions and Amusement Tax – Food and Beverages.

We are a family-owned and operated movie theatre company with 3 locations in Maryland. I am concerned this bill will lead to implementation of an additional tax of up to 3%, which will financially harm our company.

R/C Theatres, and the industry as a whole, is still in recovery mode from the pandemic after being forced to shut down our theatres in 2020 and 2021. Additionally, the Hollywood labor strikes negatively impacted the film release schedule for 2024, which directly affects our attendance. We also recently increased our employee pay due to the minimum wage increase. These challenges have led to us needing to increase our admissions and F&B prices in order to stay afloat. We can not afford a tax increase, on top of the previously mentioned financial burdens. Our theatres create jobs for the communities we're in and a safe space for Marylanders to escape the woes of reality through a cinematic experience.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Phillips', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

David Phillips  
COO & CFO