



Maryland | Delaware | DC Press Association

P.O. Box 26214 | Baltimore, MD 21210

443-768-3281 | rsnyder@mddcpress.com

www.mddcpress.com

To: House Ways & Means Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: March 7, 2025

Re: HB1508 - OPPOSE

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications located in Baltimore City, including the Baltimore Sun, The Daily Record, The Baltimore Business Journal, The Baltimore Times, The AFRO, Baltimore Brew and the Baltimore Banner. These organizations serve to inform and enrich the fabric of Baltimore City and contribute to a vibrant City culture, employing staff and serving the community.

The Press Association strongly opposes HB1508, which would allow Baltimore City to add a surcharge tax of 2% to retail sales of tangible personal property and taxable services within the City. News media organizations collect sales tax on events, single copy sales, and subscriptions and our employees purchase items and services within the City.

Our members and their staff will be directly affected by this bill, which will disadvantage them in the marketplace at a time of economic hardship. Other jurisdictions are easily accessible from Baltimore City and this bill creates a clear economic advantage to leaving the city. This bill would be difficult at any time, but as federal tariffs are imposed, raising the cost of newsprint by at least 25%, and other business taxes in Maryland are being contemplated, this legislation is untenable for businesses.

We urge an unfavorable report.



**We believe a strong news media is
central to a strong and open society.**

Read local news from around the region at www.mddcnews.com