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The restraints on growth from the poor economy are something business leaders can combat and have done so in the past. However; we are still recovering from Covid loans and losses, a poor economy, increased payroll due to Annapolis's mistaking a starting wage for a living wage, now endless fees and taxes with no relief in sight.

Sadly, my best advice to any entrepreneur considering opening a small business is "not in Maryland", unless you are a non-profit with Government contracts.

Our family business started back in 1943 in Baltimore. Four generations later, we cannot afford to expand and grow in our beloved state when every surrounding state offers better opportunities.

But who will this tax increase really hurt the most? Middle class and lower income citizens that's who. Small businesses are the leading employers in Maryland. When employers are forced to cut back, payroll is affected first. Price increases are second and moving to Pennsylvania, Virginia or Delaware are the third and final stage. How can Maryland's economy benefit from this?

This tax strategy is like putting a band-aid on an ever worsening wound. We need to re examine our spending issues before middle class is just a dream for Maryland's hard working citizens.

I urge you to reconsider this option for revenue gains. I project this will cause long term damages that will out way and cost more than the revenue gains. I worry about Maryland's future as a father and a member of a family business that would like to be around for another 82 years.