

**Shanay Johnson**

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Greetings,

I hope this letter finds you well.

My name is Shanay Johnson, and I am the owner of **Charm Summit Events**, a full-service corporate event planning company based in Maryland. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential implementation of the **Small Business Service Tax** in Maryland, a proposal that could significantly impact my business and many others within the state.

As a newly established business, the prospect of this tax presents a daunting challenge. Should this tax be enacted, it is projected to increase operational costs by 2.5%. Given the potential annual costs associated with this new tax—ranging from \$50,000 to upwards of \$150,000—it would have a direct and adverse effect on my bottom line, making it increasingly difficult for small businesses to remain competitive and sustainable.

This additional financial burden is especially concerning when considering that neighboring states, such as Virginia and Delaware, do not impose such a tax, thus allowing their businesses to operate with a competitive edge over Maryland-based companies. The costs imposed by this tax will not only limit my ability to reinvest in the growth of my business, but it will also hinder my capacity to expand, innovate, or hire additional staff—actions that would contribute positively to Maryland's economy.

Furthermore, as a resident of Maryland, I strongly believe that in order for our state to thrive and remain competitive in a rapidly changing economy, we must prioritize creating an environment conducive to business growth. This includes reducing, rather than increasing, the financial burdens faced by small business owners. The current high cost of living in Maryland, along with the financial strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, has already made it increasingly difficult to operate, and the proposed tax would exacerbate these challenges.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider the implementation of the Small Business Service Tax. Our state's future prosperity depends on supporting the businesses that drive its economy—particularly small businesses like mine. By reducing the financial obstacles we face, you will empower us to focus on growth, job creation, and innovation, ultimately benefitting Maryland's broader economic landscape.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I am confident that with your leadership, we can find a solution that fosters a thriving business community and a prosperous future for Maryland.

Sincerely,  
Shanay Johnson  
Owner, Charm Summit Events