



**THE GREATER BETHESDA**  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Smart Business, Bright Future

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**HB0185/SB0223 COMMISSION ON TAX POLICY, REFORM, AND FAIRNESS**

Written Testimony by The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

Before the House Ways & Means Committee

February 4, 2020

Recommendation: FAVORABLE

On behalf of our more than 530 members located in the Greater Bethesda area and throughout Montgomery County, The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce is providing our written and verbal testimony in **support of HB0185/SB0223 COMMISSION ON TAX POLICY, REFORM, AND FAIRNESS.**

This bill establishes the Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness; specifies the membership of the Commission including representatives from business organizations; provides for the appointment of a Senate cochair and House cochair of the Commission; and provides for the staffing of the Commission.

It's been over 30 years since the Linowes Commission made their recommendations on wholistic changes to the revenue and tax system for the state which worked well for some time. However, fast forward 30 years and given the recent recommendations from the Augustine and Kirwan Commissions to make our state's economy more competitive as well as our educational system, it is now time to create this commission and look to the future for a consistent revenue and taxing system that is fair and equitable.

We want to thank Delegates Dumais, Qi and Fraser-Hidalgo, along with Senator Feldman and his colleagues for the sponsorship of this bi-partisan legislation and the recommendations that this commission take a broad view of the revenue and tax system with a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy and educational system.

Our chamber stands with other chambers of commerce throughout the state to assist this commission as their work moves forward to develop a fair and equitable tax and revenue policy for the State of Maryland.

We urge a **favorable report for House Bill 185** thank you for your consideration of my remarks.