



March 2, 2020

Chairwoman Delegate Anne R. Kaiser  
Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Ref- HB 1628 – Sales and Use Tax – Rate Reduction and Services - **OPPOSE**

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

The Maryland Green Industry Council wants to express their **opposition to House Bill 1628**. The Council members provide landscape and lawn care services. All members are a legitimate, insurance carrying, tax paying organizations, servicing clients in all Maryland counties and Baltimore City. The passage of this proposed tax bill will unfairly burden the purchasers of our services, many who are elderly and on fixed incomes. This bill will ultimately cause our customers to cancel services purchased from our legitimate companies. People will begin to search for unlicensed, uninsured, and non-tax paying “underground” individuals who will accept cash for services rendered. This bill has the potential to cripple our economy in Maryland and has many unintended consequences. We feel our state will be labeled again as ‘Maryland- No Longer Open for Business.’

The minimum wage bill passed last year has required price increases for many service providers and Maryland businesses. Maryland consumers are experiencing those cost increases as we speak. Now, merely one year later, this proposed new tax plan will further burden Maryland’s citizens.

We are all in favor of educating our children, but not if it means another tax burden on the residents of this great state. MaGIC

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■ Maryland Association of Green Industries ■ Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association  
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