



Maryland Association of Green Industries, Inc.

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**

Chairwoman Kaiser and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

The Maryland Association of Green Industries (MAGI) which represents lawn care, golf course superintendents and the pest control industry **opposes HB 1628** and any other legislation that would add sales tax to the services we provide in the State.

The lawn care and pest control industries would be negatively affected by this new tax. Although we appreciate the work the Kirwin Commission did and agree with some of their findings, this tax will hurt our member companies and our customers. By this we mean that adding 5% to the cost of our services without us getting anything out of it in return for years to come. Even though the cost would get passed on to our clients, it still adds cost to our overall package of services. Another issue is that we as a business will have to pay the tax on many of the services that we use including legal, accounting, IT and many others.

Maryland has a reputation as a State that is unfriendly to business. Our lawn care members in Montgomery County are already dealing with a ban on the use of most lawn care products that are widely used across the country. Prince Georges has been considering similar legislation. Lawn care and grounds maintenance companies provide services that many people aren't able to do themselves to maintain their properties. Our pest control members provide a service that many times is required for health, safety and preservation of people and property. This new tax just adds to the perception that Maryland is not business-friendly.

Please try to find another way to fund Kirwin without putting on the back of the many small businesses we represent.

Thank you.

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