

Good Afternoon Mr. Chair, Madame Vice-chair and members of the Economic Matters Committee,

I am Jean Parker, General Manager of Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, Maryland. In normal times, we employ more than 1,000 people - mostly Marylanders. We're owned by a Maryland company and we bring almost \$70 million of economic activity to the State.

I am testifying today in opposition to House bill 747, "Entertainment Events and Ticketing Practices". The bill masquerades as consumer protection, however the bill is unnecessary and does not benefit consumers. It does protect scalpers and corresponding fraudulent activity at the expense of the unsuspecting consumer - so buyer beware. This bill should be opposed.

Supposing there is fraudulent activity, the ticket seller will not want to disclose any information or furthermore will resist entering into an information sharing agreement. This bill is therefore detrimental to the innocent ticket holder and is anything but consumer protection, it is however scalper protection.

Without data sharing, we have no way to provide any customer service. In an ideal world, customers would not lose their tickets. The only person not wanting a "trail" leading to them is someone who already knows at the time of purchase that nobody they know will be using the ticket. In addition, sometimes there are digital downloads of product accompanying a ticket purchase so again connection to the ticket buyer is necessary to fulfill this perk to the customer.

Please understand that many tickets do not have personal information actually printed on a ticket, however as venue operators we need to maintain the ability to do so. This feature would be an asset to track down purchasing history and contact tracing. We cannot relinquish our ability to include this information if needed.

Furthermore, Section 14-4004 A1 prevents the ability to contact trace if necessary.

This bill is not solving a problem that exists, but is creating a protective mechanism for fraudulent activity making it difficult to track down nefarious ticket sellers.

Please also note that the company putting forth HB747 was likened to participating in fraudulent ticketing that could put Bernie Madoff to shame with schemes so beautifully organized as quoted in the February 6, 2021 Ticket Trap episode from [revealnews.org](http://revealnews.org). The company has recently settled fraud claim allegations in New York and Connecticut, where it is based.

This company like many other ticket resellers (the secondary ticket market) does not have an office here in Maryland, pay State taxes or create an employment base. They predominantly are the playground for deceptive ticketing practices and are masters at creating legislation that appears otherwise.

I strongly urge you to oppose House bill 747.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jean*

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