



Maryland Association of Green Industries, Inc.

February 3, 2021

Ref. **HB 581- Labor and Employment** - Employment Standards During an Emergency
(Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act)

Position - **Unfavorable Report**

Chairman Davis and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mark Schlossberg and I am President of the Maryland Association of Green Industries, Inc. (MAGI). We represent lawn care companies, golf course superintendents and pest control companies in Maryland. I myself am an agronomist and have owned a lawn care business in Baltimore County and provide services to clients in the Baltimore metro area.

Our organization is against HB 581 and asks the committee for an unfavorable report for several reasons. First, most of our members are small businesses who have kept many Marylanders employed during the pandemic. This legislation would put undue burden on our members who are working hard already to keep employees safe. Between all of the extra paperwork that would need to be submitted, the \$3.00/hour hazard retroactive hazard pay and basically the right of any employee to decide that it is unsafe to come to work, still get paid and have us as the employer to have no recourse is pretty much going to the end of many of our business. There are many other unacceptable and business unfriendly parts of this legislation.

This is not what Maryland should be doing right now. This is the type of legislation that will discourage small businesses to come to our state to start and grow their companies.

We ask for an unfavorable report on HB 581.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Schlossberg,
President

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