

February 3, 2021

TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF FISH TALES, BAHIA MARINA & OCEAN MECCA MOTEL

**IN OPPOSITION OF HB581 - LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT - EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS DURING  
AN EMERGENCY (MARYLAND ESSENTIAL WORKERS' PROTECTION ACT)**

Before the Economic Matters Committee February 5, 2021

Dear Chairman & Committee Members,

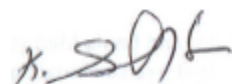
I write you as a small business requesting you oppose House Bill 581. Our family has been in the hospitality business for over 70 decades and we've experienced a steady decline in margins over the last decade. The recent minimum wage, paid sick and safe leave among other mandates have led us to higher payroll costs, resulting in higher prices to consumers and in some cases staff reductions.

As I understand, this legislation includes a \$3 per hour increase for hourly employees deemed "essential," is retroactive to March 2020 and applies until the pandemic is no longer a state of emergency. If passed, this bill would create several damaging and burdensome requirements for our motel, restaurant and marina. If passed as written, I anticipate our businesses eliminating positions with automation, laying off employees or delaying our opening until the state of emergency is lifted.

Our family businesses provide close to 300 entry level jobs for young people, adults with little skill, teachers looking for second incomes and others looking for scheduling flexibility. Tourism has been one of the hardest hit industries and the ramifications of this bill would be financially devastating to my family business and many others around our State. Now is not the time to implement new, costly, and complex employer mandates.

Please consider the consequences of all points in this bill and let's not rush to pass bad legislation. Thank you for your time and service to Maryland.

Sincerely,



K. Shawn Harman

Fish Tales Bar & Grill, Bahia Marina and Ocean Mecca Motel

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