



t/a Obrycki's
t/a R&R Seafood Bar

1810-J York Rd. Ste 172
Lutherville, MD 21093

410-859-5723
owners@crcrestaurants.com

January 15, 2021

Bill: SB107- Labor and Employment- Secure Maryland

Position: OPPOSE

Committee: Senate Finance

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My family business, CRC Restaurants Inc., is a locally owned ACDBE business (Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise), that has been operating at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport since we opened Obrycki's Restaurant & Bar in 2006. We have three locations past security at BWI - Obrycki's on Concourse B, R&R Seafood Bar on the D/E Connector, and R&R Seafood Bar on the A Concourse.

Due to the effect that Covid 19 has had on travel, only one, Obrycki's Restaurant & Bar, is currently open at 25% capacity as mandated by AACO Executive, Steuart Pittman. When R&R on D/E was open, sales were so low that we couldn't cover operating expenses, so we made the difficult decision to close until further notice. Since Southwest Airlines isn't using gates near our third location, R&R on the newly expanded A Concourse has been sitting vacant since construction was completed last June. Prior to Governor Hogan's mandated restaurant shutdown in March 2020, we employed 61 people. Currently, due to the impact that Covid 19 has on travel and limited capacity, we employ 31 people.

We are opposed to SB-107 for several reasons.

Working at BWI is unlike working at street locations, since staff must pass a security clearance, take a shuttle from employee parking to the airport, and go through the TSA checkpoint just to get to work. In order to recruit and retain quality employees we already offer competitive wages and benefits.

Our employees are hired to manage staff, wait on and serve guests, prepare drinks and food, and other restaurant specific responsibilities. They are not trained to respond to or assist in the event of a security breach, emergency, or an evacuation, and it is an unreasonable and unsafe expectation.

There are various levels of security clearances at BWI Airport, and restaurant employees have limited access. Most are allowed in the concourses only, a few can access doors and elevators to the basement and airfield. However, in an emergency, only designated first responders are allowed in those areas.



t/a Obrycki's
t/a R&R Seafood Bar

1810-J York Rd. Ste 172
Lutherville, MD 21093

410-859-5723
owners@crcrestaurants.com

This bill, setting a special minimum wage for employees working in secure locations, would also increase the cost of doing business at BWI Airport. The restaurant industry has been particularly hard hit by the pandemic, with many already closed while the rest of us are in survival mode. If we are required to set wages in relation to security officers, in the short term service will suffer, since we will be forced to reduce our staffing to cover the costs, and in the long term many of our businesses won't survive.

For these reasons, Cheri Cernak, Rob Cernak, and Cindy Cernak respectfully request an unfavorable vote on SB 107. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cheri@crcrestaurants.com or 410.336.5848.

Sincerely,

Cheri Cernak

Cheri Cernak

President

CRC Restaurants Inc.