



Fresh, Hot, Hand-Rolled Soft Pretzels

SKYS THE LIMIT OF MARYLAND

10601 Tulip Lane • Potomac, MD 20854

Phone/Fax: (301) 294-9324

Bill: SB 107- Labor and Employment- Secure Maryland Wage Act

Position: OPPOSE

Committee: Senate Finance

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

Auntie Anne's Pretzels operates three locations at BWI airport. We have been operating at BWI since 2006. Our locations provide food to passengers and airport employees. We have grown with the airport and understand the opportunities and challenges operating in an airport. Right now our challenge is getting people to fly again. We were closed for some time and have not reopened all locations due to lack of flights. As we try to provide service at BWI SB 107 would add a tremendous additional cost to a business that provides snacks and drinks only and in no way deals with security issues.

SB 107 would mandate a higher minimum wage for any employee who spends at least 50% of their workweek at "heightened security interest locations," including Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall). This would include employees working at BWI Marshall who perform no security-related functions, such as employees working at retail stores and restaurants.

Presently we pay well above the minimum wage at BWI. This allows us to keep and retain quality well trained employees. SB 107 would bring us to a minimum wage that will make operating at a loss a reality. Please understand that creating a new minimum requires raising all wages to new levels. To clarify; if the new floor goes up, all existing employee's wages go accordingly to match increase at new artificial base. Doing business is hard enough. Doing business in 2021 has never been harder. As we are well aware businesses like mine are closing at an alarming rate never seen before. This bill will only accelerate for businesses like mine.

For these reasons, Auntie Anne's Pretzels respectfully requests an unfavorable vote on SB 107.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-580-9785.

Sincerely,

Joe Katz

President, Auntie Anne's Pretzels BWI Airport

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