



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association  
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To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Ellen Valentino  
On behalf of MAPDA

Date: February 3, 2021

RE: HB 508 COVID Civil Liability - Support

The Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Dealers Association is the regional association supporting convenience stores, owners of service stations and petroleum distributors.

Please know that the issue of lawsuits stemming from COVID is top of mind for my membership and the small business community. MAPDA members, classified as essential businesses worked daily to comply with executive orders, PSC orders, and varies ever-changing local directives, to serve the people of Maryland. And continue to do so.

COVID has been a beyond imaginable event for every Marylander and one that has impacted almost every small business. The full impact continues to unfold and uncertainty looms. Businesses are precariously teetering due to the pandemic. Maryland's legislature can support and stabilize businesses by passing HB 508.

With the passage of HB 508, you can provide protections to thousands of businesses that have followed appropriate guidance. Unfair lawsuits against compliant businesses may arise through no fault of their own but rather only because of this horrible pandemic.

Thank you.

**Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.**

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.