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NFIB-Maryland – 60 West St., Suite 101 – Annapolis, MD 21401 – [www.NFIB.com/Maryland](http://www.NFIB.com/Maryland)

TO: House Ways and Means Committee

FROM: NFIB – Maryland

DATE: February 23, 2021

RE: **SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1137** – Property Tax Credit – Business Entities – State of Emergency

Founded in 1943, NFIB is the voice of small business, advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. With more than 250,000 members nationwide, and nearly 4,000 here in Maryland, we work to protect and promote the ability of our members to grow and operate their business.

On behalf of Maryland’s small businesses, NFIB-Maryland supports House Bill 1137 – legislation enabling local governments to authorize a property tax credit to small businesses during declared state of emergency.

Small business owners have felt a disproportionate impact from the COVID-19 pandemic compared to medium- and large-sized firms. NFIB notes in a [recent study](#) that only 5% of small business owners report that economic conditions are back to normal now. Nearly a quarter do not believe conditions will fully improve until 2022. Additionally, NFIB’s latest “[Problems and Priorities](#)” shows small business owners ranking property taxes (real, inventory, etc.) as the second most critical tax issue they face.

House Bill 1137 will allow our local governments to provide relief for their area businesses in a manner that works best for their locale. For these reasons **NFIB supports HB1137** and requests a favorable committee report.