

February 4, 2022

To whom it may concern:

I will start by thanking you all for what you do. As somebody who feels strongly towards public service in my personal life I commend each and every one of you for subjecting yourself to the challenges that come along with the territory, especially given today's political environment.

Today I would like to briefly offer my support for SB0403 as a small business owner in favor of the bill. I will start by qualifying my opinion by saying that in general I do not oppose taxation or fees, and I will double down by saying that Maryland's fee structure on small businesses like mine is frankly already quite reasonable and generous. However, I consider myself one of the *lucky ones* in that I have always had success with my ventures such that an annual fee of \$300, for example, or a small fee to start and expedite a new venture has always been paid without a second thought.

Unfortunately not all businesses and business owners are as lucky as me, though. An annual cost of a few hundred dollars here and there is much more impactful to some of my peers in different industries, not just during a normal business cycle but certainly during Covid. Barbers, food businesses, and hospitality vendors who operate on small, tight margins already would surely benefit from the small reductions being proposed in this bill. I and my staff benefited from federal Covid relief programs and I am sure they did too, but we didn't start on equal playing fields to begin with and I write my support today in an attempt to provide more balance.

I will conclude by again stating my support of reducing and eliminating some of the small costs of doing business in the State of Maryland. I have lived here most of my life, I have spent my entire entrepreneurial career in this wonderful state, and as I look towards retirement in a warmer climate I would love to think that during my final months in Maryland many of my colleagues just starting out will have an easier time than those before them, if even just by a small degree.

Thank you and sincerely,

Ben Greenstein