



Feb. 9, 2022

The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, Md. 21401

Re: HB 409 "Corporations and Associations - Annual Reports - Fees for Electronic Filings" - **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Wilson and members of the Committee,

The Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA) is a membership organization with nearly 9,000 CPA members. Our members serve thousands of individual and business clients throughout the state. We wish to express our support for HB 409.

The State Department of Assessments and Taxation recognized the opportunity offered through modernization by introducing an online option for annual business filings in 2015. Online filing is a more efficient and cost-effective method for both the filer and SDAT. Electronic filing has allowed the department to process filings and payments quickly and, in turn, save the state money. HB 409 will further incentivize online filing for businesses by offering a zero-fee option. Increasing the number of online filers will reduce the administrative burden and in turn, enhance the support and services offered to the public and to our CPA members.

HB 409 will serve to incentivize businesses to locate assets in Maryland by offering an annual report fee structure that is among the most competitive in the nation. The economic advantages of businesses investing in Maryland assets is much larger than the tax revenue collected via a filing fee. It is for these reasons that we respectfully request a favorable report for HB 409.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to offer these comments for your consideration. If you have any questions or if we can provide additional information, please contact Mary Beth Halpern of the MACPA at marybeth@macpa.org or 443-632-2330.

Sincerely,

MACPA State Tax Committee

cc: Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates