



**Hearing on House Bill 549 -- Fair Wage Act of 2023
Maryland House Economic Matters Committee
February 27, 2023**

**Testimony of Courtney Sunborn, Owner, Ecolistic Cleaning, Anne Arundel County and
Baltimore City
POSITION: SUPPORT**

Thank you, Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and committee members for the opportunity to testify in support of speeding up implementation of Maryland's \$15 minimum wage, and adding annual cost of living adjustments so the minimum wage retains purchasing power over time.

My name is Courtney Sunborn, and I am the owner of Ecolistic Cleaning. We were founded in Annapolis in 2003 and provide commercial and residential green cleaning services across Anne Arundel County and in Baltimore City, as well as in Sussex County, Delaware.

I strongly support raising and indexing Maryland's minimum wage. I know from experience that paying livable wages is good business. This is our 20th year in business and we are expanding.

I started as a cleaner, and I know what difficult, physically intense work it is. So from our founding, we made the decision to pay livable wages. No employee makes less than \$18 an hour.

By paying living wages, we keep our staff turnover very low. It saves us a lot of time and money to retain employees who are already trained and already know our clients. Lower turnover also brings increased morale and productivity – and happier customers.

Our clients appreciate the reliability and sense of security that comes from seeing the same faces in their homes and businesses week after week, year after year.

Raising the minimum wage will bring people out of the impossible situation of working at a full-time job and still not making ends meet. It will increase the consumer spending that businesses rely on to survive and grow. When people earn more as workers, they spend more as customers.

It's not enough for Maryland to speed up the path to \$15. Without annual cost of living adjustments, starting next year, the minimum wage will begin falling behind cost of living again.



With a COLA, if cost of living goes up 2%, the minimum wage will keep pace. If cost of living doesn't increase, neither will the minimum wage.

Annual cost of living adjustments make good business sense because they ensure the minimum wage retains its value over time. That's important for business and our economy.

Raising and indexing Maryland's minimum wage will help workers, businesses and communities succeed now and in the future. It will strengthen Maryland's economy for everyone.

I ask for a favorable report on House Bill 549.

Thank you.

Courtney Sunborn

Founder and Owner

Ecolistic Cleaning

Operating in Anne Arundel County and in Baltimore, Maryland

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