



**Maryland Senate Finance Committee -- Hearing on Senate Bill 555  
Fair Wage Act of 2023  
March 2, 2023**

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

Thank you, Chair Griffith and committee members for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 555 to speed up implementation of Maryland's \$15 minimum wage, and add annual cost of living adjustments so the minimum wage retains purchasing power over time.

My name is Courtney Sunborn, and I am the founder and owner of Ecolistic Cleaning. We were founded in Annapolis in 2003 and provide residential and commercial 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 20<sup>th</sup> year in business and we are still growing.

I started as a cleaner, and I know what difficult, physically intense work it is. From our founding, we made the decision to pay livable wages. No employee makes less than \$18 an hour and we pay up to \$24 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 clients.

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 makes 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 Senate Bill 555.

Thank you.

Courtney Sunborn

Founder and Owner

Ecolistic Cleaning

Operating in Anne Arundel County and in Baltimore, Maryland

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