



March 7, 2024

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair  
House Ways & Means Committee  
Room 131  
Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401



Subject: HB1515, Sales and Use Tax- Rate Reduction and Services

301-695-8885  
50 Citizens Way, Suite 403-1A  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

**8VODESIGNS.COM**

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary & Committee Members,

My purpose in writing is to offer my strongest opposition to House Bill 1515, Sales and Use Tax- Rate Reduction and Services.

This historic increase in the Maryland Sales and Use tax couldn't possibly come at a worse time in the business cycle. I am a small business that has been around since April of 2000. We are not a big business, but I am responsible for the livelihood of four families. We offer design services for print and web – this sales tax would make the cost of doing business very expensive and I know that we will lose business – both through attrition and potential business.

Our national economy is still facing serious uncertainty due to the affects of inflation. Our employee costs have risen dramatically due to compensation and benefit mandates from the federal and state government. Our cost-of-goods has grown significantly, yet consumer confidence is still affected by the recent global pandemic.

One of my biggest concerns is that any business located in Frederick County is impacted by our proximity to nearby states (PA, VA and WVA) who's economies are not burdened by rising sales taxes on goods and services the same way that we will be should HB1515 become law.

Please reject this economy-stifling and job-killing initiative by issuing an UNFAVORABLE committee report on HB1515.

Susan Hough  
Octavo Designs  
sue@8vodesigns.com