

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

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary & Committee Members,

I'm writing 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. My video production agency works with small businesses that have limited budgets, and adding sales tax to my services would not only cut into profits - which are still growing, as the company is just over a year old - it would drive away some of my clients, causing them to seek out my competitors in other states with more favorable taxes. Our national economy is still facing serious uncertainty due to the affects of inflation. Equipment, travel, and day-to-day expenses have increased dramatically, 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.

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