

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:

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. We are a retail hobby shop includes, as a service, repairs of products for our customers who come from within the county as well as from as far west as Cumberland, from Pennsylvania, from Virginia and from West Virginia. 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, and our margins are shrinking, 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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