



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 Marland Sales and Use tax couldn't possibly come at a worse time in the business cycle.

I serve as the President & CEO of the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce and represent well over 900 member companies and organizations. I can affirmatively state that our small business members are strongly opposed to the expansion of the Sales and Use tax to cover a broad range of services.

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.

Sincerely,  
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard B. Weldon, Jr.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard B. Weldon, Jr.  
President & CEO  
Frederick County Chamber of Commerce