



Letter of Support: HB29 Electronic Payment Transactions - Interchange Fees - Calculation and Use of Data

January 15, 2025

Chester River Wine & Cheese Company and Welcome Home Markets
117 S. Cross Street
Chestertown, MD 21620

To Whom It May Concern:

We are small business owners operating four locations within Maryland – Chester River Wine & Cheese Co. in Chestertown and Welcome Home in Annapolis, Chestertown, and Easton.

Last year we collected and remitted a combined \$69,000 in sales taxes for the State of Maryland. In doing so, we were assessed roughly \$1,800 in processing fees by our two point of sale providers, Shopify and Lightspeed. The collection, tracking, administration, and filing / remittance of sales tax does divert effort and attention away from the management of our operations. It is unnecessary and unfair for us to be assessed additional fees while supporting sales tax collection efforts for the State.

Across the country one can see small businesses are struggling to make ends meet, let alone generate a sufficient profit. Case in point, many restaurants are now passing their processing fees on to patrons. While the financial impacts may seem relatively small to the casual observer, every dollar counts. Recuperating processing fees can help offset rent or provide an edge to acquire a new fixture or piece of equipment or give a bonus to your high-performing team members.

We fully support the elimination of processing fees on sales tax as a long overdue step, which can meaningfully aid every small business.

Best regards,

John Laucik & Jennifer L Baker, Owners
Chester River Wine & Cheese Company, Inc: Chestertown
Welcome Home Markets: Annapolis | Chestertown | Easton

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JLB", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.