

Luke Clippinger, Chair
Maryland House of Delegates Judiciary Committee
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Clippinger and Maryland House of Delegates Judiciary Committee:

I serve as Regional President for Adams Publishing Group – Chesapeake, overseeing twelve publications that will be directly impacted by House Bill 623. The enactment of this law will impose hundreds of thousands of dollars of negative financial impact on our operations, lead to job losses, and potentially force the closure of media properties—outcomes that will reverberate throughout the Maryland economy.

This impact comes at a time when media properties along the East Coast are already grappling with the detrimental effects of the proposed 25% Canadian tariffs introduced by the new Trump administration. Local Maryland print publications are facing not only soaring costs for Canadian newsprint but also a significant loss of revenue due to HB623.

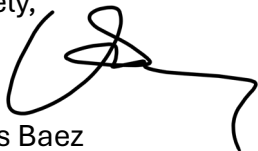
Moreover, with a minimum of 24 publications of record—covering every county, including Baltimore City—the compounded loss of revenue and increased operating costs threaten hundreds of jobs. As more Marylanders find themselves out of work, the economic strain on our communities will intensify. Please do not jeopardize the financial stability of Maryland’s media industry and, by extension, our local economy.

It is important to note that the service this bill seeks to replicate is already provided free of charge by the Maryland/DC/Delaware Press Association. Allowing an independent body to oversee public notices not only is an efficient service but also instills public confidence through third-party oversight of the public sector.

I strongly urge you and your committee members to issue an unfavorable report for HB623.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Orestes Baez
Regional President
Adams Publishing Group – Chesapeake