

The Frederick News-Post

351 Ballenger Center Drive
Frederick, MD 21703

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Geordie Wilson, Publisher

Date: February 11, 2025

Re: **SUPPORT HB 891**

The Frederick News-Post's core purpose is to be the authoritative resource in the Frederick area for quality news, information and entertainment. We have been in operation since 1880 and are committed to being an involved community partner, rooted in Frederick's past and helping to build its future. Our staff is committed to the role of journalism in our society and we employ reporters, advertising representatives, administrative professionals, delivery drivers, printing press operators and others, all from the local community.

We support HB 891. This bill would provide much-needed support for our newsroom through a Maryland State income tax credit for local newsroom employees. Like many industries, our company is being squeezed by higher costs for labor and raw materials. Adding to this is the transformation of our industry from a print-based model to a digital format. Although this means that we have a higher audience than ever before and can reach the majority of our market, digital advertising revenue does not support the newsroom as fully as print advertising once did. Our company has adapted and changed, launching community events, special sections and even creating a digital agency. We still need support.

This bill incentivizes long term investment in local newsrooms through a tax credit. For us, it would mean over \$50K in tax credits that could be used to support our local operation. Please take this opportunity to support local news.

I urge a favorable report.