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TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL No. 62

AFFILIATED WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS



The Honorable Venessa Atterbeary
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 6, 2025

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee

On behalf of Teamsters Joint Council 62, and in the interest of the thousands of men and women in the beverage, manufacturing and trucking industry who we represent in the State of Maryland, I write to you today in order to express our opposition to a proposal that would impose a tax on certain sugary beverages, syrups, and powders for sale in the State of Maryland (HB1469).

Throughout Maryland, thousands of Teamster members work in the beverage and soft drink industry in production plants, distribution centers, and as delivery drivers. Our members work for employers such as Sysco, US Foods, Giant and Pepsi and many others who are vital to the supply chain. Because of their strong Teamster contracts, these members are able to put food on the table for their families, they have company-paid health insurance, and retirement security in defined benefit pension plans. Our members are active in their community and are able to lead fulfilling lives because of their jobs. As a union, we must take any proposal that could impact their job security as a serious threat to their way of life.

Some have suggested that the Maryland Assembly should create an excise tax on certain beverages, syrup, or powders under the guise that it will promote healthy beverage consumption and provide revenue for certain services. While this proposal may be well intentioned, its impact would have very real and consequential impacts for our members who work in the beverage and soft drink industry. While we appreciate the concerns raised by those proposing such a tax, the real impact of this legislation on our members must be considered. When prices go up, sales go down – it is the men and women who manufacture, package, and deliver these products who would suffer from a decrease in sales. Several thousand Teamsters work in the food and beverage industry and these employers already all contribute to the overall tax revenue of Maryland, revenue that supports education and other community programs.

At a time of great economic uncertainty for families all across the region and country, the Assembly cannot uplift a proposal that would jeopardize the job security for hundreds of hardworking men and women. Good jobs are hard to come by – we urge the members of this committee to oppose any legislation that would risk the sustainability and longevity of these jobs by implementing additional taxation on certain beverages being sold in the State of Maryland. As the President of Joint Council 62, on behalf of our members I respectfully ask that you vote no on HB 1469.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Cedenio'. The signature is written over a horizontal line and includes a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

Sean Cedenio, President
Teamsters Joint Council 62