



My Name is Chris Warthen, I am the Assistant Operations Manager for The George J Falter Company located @3501 Benson Avenue Baltimore Md 21227. We are the oldest Candy distributor in Maryland. We were founded in Baltimore City in 1878, and the same Falter family still owns and operates the company today. We have grown to carry a full line of convenience store items. We fear that the long-term future of the company and the 170 plus families we employ are in jeopardy with the continued TAX attacks the state of Maryland is forcing on us.

We are against House Bill 1469 Sugary Beverage Tax. This is another way Maryland is hurting us as a distributor and the retailers we deliver to. I'm not sure you're thinking this through. This is going to hurt every business and not just because they must collect 2 cents per ounce tax on thousands and thousands of items. It's not just that simple. Hiring people for keeping the records, filing tax reports, software updates to handle this tax, the list goes on and on. All the costs the companies will have to manage this outrageous tax have to come from somewhere. That's right they will be passed on to the consumers who are already struggling in the state of Maryland, living paycheck to paycheck.

The tax is .2 per ounce. A case of 20oz soda will increase by at least \$9.60! A box of syrup for making sodas will be Taxed on the box size of how many drinks it could possibly make. What if the retailer has an issue with their soda machine. They lose? They never sold the beverage. Let's look at an item like Nesquik powder, the one we use to make flavored milk for kids. Taxed on how many glasses of milk it might make. Hershey chocolate syrup? Taxed on how many glasses of milk might it make? What if the person who buys it only uses it for ice cream?

The Bill says the first \$239,000,000 of this tax has been allocated. Where is the rest of the money going? How much is it going to cost the state to monitor this new tax? Why are you creating a tax to fund something that's already being funded at federal level?

This tax, like other unnecessary taxes in the state of Maryland will lead to more theft on our trucks, and loss of business to our company leaving our 170 families we employ in jeopardy of losing their jobs. More and more Maryland residents will continue to take their business out of the state.

Stop the tax attack on the hard-working Marylanders who are already struggling to live here paycheck to paycheck.

We ask you to vote against HB1469