

William Davis
President

Scott Clark
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Vice President

Vernon Bollino
Recording Secretary



TEAMSTERS

LOCAL 639

Affiliated With The International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Representing members in the following industries;
Drivers, Chauffeurs and Helpers, Dairy Delivery and Plant
Processing, Law Enforcement, Public Employees, Bakery,

Laundry and Allied Sales Drivers, Health Care Workers,
Housekeeping and Laundry Aides, Gaming Industry and
Casino Employees, Washington, D.C. and Metropolitan
Area

March 5, 2025

Office of The Chair of Ways and Means
130 Taylor House Office Building
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Vanessa Atterbeary, Vice Chair Jheanelle Wilkins, and Members of the Committee

On behalf of Teamsters Local 639 and Teamsters Joint Council 55 in interest of the 13,000 members in which represent over 1,500 of those members who work in the Beverage, Manufacturing and Trucking industry that we represent in the State of Maryland. I write to you today to express our opposition to a proposal that would impose a tax on certain distributors of certain sugary beverages, syrups, and powders for the privilege of selling those products to certain retailers or offering those products for sale to consumers in the State of Maryland (HB1469).

Throughout Maryland, hundreds of Teamster Members work in the beverage and soft drink industry in production plants, distribution centers, and as delivery drivers. They work for employers such as Sysco, US Foods, Giant Foods, Canada Dry and Pepsi just to name a few who are vital to the supply chain. Because of their strong Teamster contracts, these Members can 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 idea 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 contribute to the overall tax revenue of Maryland which support Education and other Community Programs.

At a time of great economic uncertainty for families 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 I urge the members of this Committee to oppose any legislation that would implement additional taxation on certain beverages being sold in the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

William Davis/sk

William Davis
President Local 639