



UTILITRAIN, LLC.
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March 2, 2026

Subject: Opposition to SB 886 / HB 1229 – Impact on Maryland Small Businesses and Higher Education Providers

Dear Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to proposed legislation SB 886 / HB 1229, which would increase the minimum wage to \$25 per hour.

As a Maryland business owner operating in the higher education sector, I am deeply concerned about the unintended consequences this proposal would have on small businesses like mine and on the students we serve.

I currently employ 15 staff members, with an average monthly payroll of approximately \$100,000. If this legislation is enacted, my payroll expenses would increase dramatically — at a minimum, doubling due not only to mandated minimum wage increases but also the necessary wage adjustments required for supervisory and skilled staff to maintain equitable pay structures.

Unlike many industries, my business is regulated by the State of Maryland with strict instructor-to-student ratio requirements. If payroll costs increase to the level projected under this proposal, I may be forced to reduce staffing levels to remain financially viable. Because staffing levels directly determine the number of students we can serve, this would require reducing class sizes and enrollment capacity, ultimately decreasing annual revenue and limiting educational access for Maryland residents.

While I support fair wages and value the contributions of my employees, an increase of this magnitude creates an unsustainable financial burden for small



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businesses and educational providers operating under state regulatory constraints.

I respectfully urge you to consider the economic realities facing small businesses and the potential reduction in educational opportunities that could result from this legislation. I strongly oppose SB 886 / HB 1229 and ask that you reconsider the impact this proposal would have on employers, employees, and students across Maryland.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke Granger", written in a cursive style.

Luke Granger
President/CEO
Utilitrain, LLC
410-865-0168