

March 3, 2026

Opposition to SB 886 – Consumer Protection and Labor and Employment – Food Service Facilities and Minimum Wage

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Lisa Romano, and I am an Owner of The Breadery in Catonsville, Maryland. We have owned the business for the last 3 years, however the business is celebrating its 30th year in business in 2027. We currently employ 30 amazing Marylanders. I am writing in opposition to SB 886.

I understand the intent of this bill is to raise worker earnings, and I care deeply about my employees. But this proposal would create economic consequences many businesses like mine simply cannot absorb - threatening jobs, increasing costs, and undermining stability.

Raising the minimum wage to \$25 per hour by 2030 – a 67% increase – is not a small adjustment. For our business, that would mean:

- An estimated annual payroll increase of approximately \$400,000
- Requirement to raise retail and wholesale prices for our customers, again
- Expansion plans would be put on hold until if/when we can stabilize

This would not only affect entry-level positions. It would impact wages across our entire team due to equity. We have employees that have been in roles for 10+ years. They would expect an equity adjustment.

What concerns me most is placing this policy into the Maryland Constitution. Embedding it there would effectively lock in sweeping economic mandates with little ability to course correct if the consequences prove damaging. That level of permanence is risky for employers, workers and communities alike.

I am not opposed to fair wages. All of our employees already make more than minimum wage. We offer 401K and health benefits too. We do this to take care of our employees. I am concerned about sustainability – and whether businesses like mine will be able to continue operating and employing Marylanders under this structure.

I respectfully ask you to oppose SB 886.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Romano

Owner, The Breadery

Catonsville, MD 21228