



TESTIMONY

SB0757 Consumer Protection – Disclosure of Tariffs and Local Sourcing

Bill Sponsor: Senator Rosapepe

Committee: Senate Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Co-Chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0757 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

Tariffs—imposed by the current federal regime—function as an intrusion into state commerce and operate as a regressive tax that falls hardest on working families. Marylanders deserve to know exactly how much of a product’s price is being driven up by federal tariffs, and they deserve the ability to choose locally produced alternatives when possible.

SB0757 requires businesses to disclose when the price of a consumer good includes a tariff and to state the amount of that tariff. Transparency is the minimum standard in a functioning marketplace, and this bill finally ensures that Marylanders can see what they are being charged—and why, given the outside chance that they may be in a position to receive a refund per the Supreme Court ruling.

SB0757 also directs the Department of Commerce to create and maintain the “Maryland Local Sourcing Portal,” a statewide database connecting Maryland businesses with local suppliers and inventory sources. With this, Maryland gives consumers and businesses the tools to identify local, tariff-free alternatives.

For these reasons, we adamantly urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0757. We also encourage the Maryland Local Sourcing Portal to be widely promoted—to Maryland residents and businesses as well as consumers and advocates in other states who would prefer to support Maryland producers rather than pay regressive federal tariffs.