



**Senate Bill 886 Letter**

**February 26, 2026**

**Opposition to Senate Bill 886 – Consumer Protection and Labor and Employment – Food Service Facilities and Minimum Wage**

To the Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Matthew Bennett, and I am the President of Unemployment Tax Service, Inc. (UTS), a Maryland-based company that has operated since 1985. I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 886.

While I understand and respect the goal of improving worker earnings, this proposal would impose economic pressures that many Maryland small businesses cannot realistically sustain.

For my company, the proposed requirements would result in a **30%–60% increase in wages for my employees**, equating to approximately a **\$35,000 annual payroll increase**. At that level of cost increase, the long-term viability of our business could be at risk. Such a significant increase would force difficult decisions, including raising prices substantially for clients, reducing staffing levels, or both. Despite every effort to avoid it, layoffs could become unavoidable.

Small businesses like mine do not have the pricing power or financial reserves to absorb increases of this magnitude. Policies of this scale risk unintentionally reducing employment opportunities rather than expanding them.

I am particularly concerned about placing such sweeping economic mandates into the Constitution. Doing so removes the flexibility lawmakers need to adjust policy if unintended consequences arise, creating long-term risk for Maryland's small business community.

I support fair wages and responsible growth. I do not support policies that may unintentionally eliminate jobs or make it impossible for small employers to remain viable.

**I respectfully ask you to oppose Senate Bill 886.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Bennett  
President  
Unemployment Tax Service, Inc.  
Westminster, Maryland