



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

MARYLAND FEDERATION

Statement of Paul Schwartz, Vice President, National Active and Retired Federal Employees

Senate Bill 757

Government, Labor, Elections Committee

March 31, 2026

Consumer Protection – Disclosure of Tariffs and Local Sourcing

I am Paul Schwartz, Region Vice President of the National Active & Retired Federal Employees – NARFE

And formerly the Director of Trade Enforcement for the United States Customs Service

As someone who has previously testified before the Court of International Trade, I testify before you today in support of SB 757 but with amendment

The issue being discussed should be pricing information for Maryland consumers.

Maryland consumers have a right to know the factors that go into the price of products they buy just as they have a right to know the ingredients of the products they eat.

The original bill, SB0757F added in, at the request of the Senate President, the portion dealing with a portal to benefit local businesses. No problem with that. The version of the bill now working its way through the chambers consists of nothing BUT the portal. Problem with that.

I fully understand that the local business community is concerned, but their pushback mainly consists of their perceived burden of having to calculate the tariff when that is not the case.

As was made clear in our original testimony before the Senate Finance Committee on March 5th, it is the importer of record who pays and knows the tariff regardless of through which port of entry in the U.S. they import the merchandise.

The retailer, here, in Maryland, would only be required to require that the seller provide them with that known figure to avoid any penalty.

It is unlikely the seller would forgo the sale simply to avoid providing a figure that they already know. The penalty could be the subject of an amendment but should not require elimination of the essence of the original bill.

The original bill including the eliminated portion is the bill that needs to pass out of the Government, Labor, Elections Committee.

Amend it to put back that original portion of the bill when it comes out of this Committee.