TURF VALLEY
RESORT

HB 1229 - Consumer Protection and Labor and Employment - Food Service Facilities and Minimum Wage

Good afternoon, my name is Pete Mangione and I am the GM of Turf Valley Resort located in Howard county, Maryland. My family has owned, operated, and developed the property since 1979. I consider us to be a good employer. One of our goals has always been to be good corporate citizens as we are extremely involved in the community. I think most people would say we are as we have been recognized by many various organizations in the county such as the Md Hotel & Lodging Association, the Howard chamber, The ARC, the Howard County Tourism Council, Blossoms of Hope, Howard Community College and the Boy Scouts of America just to name a few. We currently employ approximately 300 employees, either full-time or part-time. For 2025 we printed 454 W2's for our company. This includes approximately 50 seasonal people, so our turnover rate of 45% is well below the standard in our industry, which is between 70 and 80%. I would love to share many of our success stories such as my assistant GM who started as a dishwasher 40 years ago or my F&B Director who started as a busboy 30 years ago. I have many other similar stories throughout the property. My 15 department heads average 19 years at Turf Valley, and most have come up through the system. As I said earlier, I consider us to be a good employer.

I share many of the concerns you have heard and will hear from business owners who oppose HB 1229. We are a business with tight profit margins and if this bill goes through, I feel it will have a negative impact not just on business owners but employees as well. Rather than go through all the number calculations, I want to look at it from a different angle. I was here 10 years ago when there was the "Drive for $15". At that time the minimum wage was $10 and there was a push to get it to $15. I said once we get to 15, it won't be enough and there will be a new drive for 20 and then 25. You see, 15 would have been enough if the floor stayed the same, but it didn't because this keep raising it.

I share your concern about affordability. When I was dating my wife over 40 years ago in the early 1980's, chicken dinners in restaurants were $8.99, then they went to $12.99 and then to $16.99 and then $22.99 to now $28.99. If this happens, they will move to $34.99. You can't go to many places and get a steak under $50, that will become $60. I think you are trying to help people but I believe you are actually increasing the divide between those who can afford things and those who can't. And those who can afford restaurants will become even less which could cause restaurants to close so there will be less jobs available and the people you are trying to help will actually be hurt.

I mentioned my family has been here at Turf Valley for 47 years. We are a 2nd generation family business. My hope is to turn the business over to my son one day in the future but for the first time, I am starting to wonder if the business is sustainable. Increased regulations and burdens on business continue to grow every year. I don't know why so many in the legislature look at business people as bad people. I am not. We provide an opportunity for people to make a living.

I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 1229.

Pete Mangione
Owner & GM, Turf Valley Resort
Md Hotel and Lodging Association board member