

James E Dean III
9797 Tilghman Is Rd
McDaniel MD 21647

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To Whom it may concern Gentlemen and Ladies of the Assembly

I am here to express my concerns regarding Maryland's recent decision to impose sales tax on precious metal bullion and coin transactions beginning in 2025. I am a Marine Corps veteran, and for the past ten years I have returned to the hobby of collecting U.S. coins. Since this tax took effect, I have witnessed a significant decline in the number of local coin dealers, many of whom have closed due to reduced sales. As a result, collectors like me are increasingly traveling to neighboring states where these taxes do not apply.

Recently, I attended a coin show in Delaware due to the limited number of dealers still operating in Maryland. With my disability made it difficult in attending in attending this show. The distance required to participate in a once-local hobby is becoming burdensome. My concern is that if this tax remains in place, Maryland will continue to lose these small businesses—along with the additional revenue typically generated through the sale of books, supplies, equipment, and other materials essential to the hobby.

I also find it notable that Delaware, the home state of the most recent President of the United States, does not impose similar taxes on bullion or coins. This policy difference between neighboring states makes it increasingly difficult for Maryland collectors to stay engaged locally. Coin collecting is more than a hobby for many of us; it is also a way to teach younger generations about history. My grandchildren are learning about our nation through these coins, and I hope to continue sharing that experience with them here in Maryland.

Another concern is that, as certified local dealers close their doors, collectors may turn to online sources where the risk of encountering counterfeit coins is higher. Reputable instate dealers have long been a safeguard for buyers and losing them leaves collectors more vulnerable.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that Maryland reconsider the taxation of precious metal bullion and coins. Doing so would help preserve the coin-collecting community, support small businesses, and maintain an important educational and historical tradition within our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James E Dean III