

November 30, 2020

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President, Maryland Senate
H-107 State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne Jones
Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates
H-101, State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

This letter is being transmitted by email

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

We are writing to you as a united, independent coalition of Marylanders and Maryland businesses, called Marylanders For Tax Fairness. As you may have read in the Baltimore Sun and The Washington Post, we launched this coalition with the mission of ensuring that taxes implemented by the Maryland General Assembly do not place an unnecessary and undue burden on the state's entrepreneurs and job creators, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Marylanders For Tax Fairness is actively working to sustain Governor Larry Hogan's veto of House Bill 732 – the Digital Ad Tax. If allowed to become law, HB 732 would raise taxes and costs on any business or any person who uses digital advertising in the marketing of their services.

Currently, over 100 organizations and businesses have officially joined the Marylanders For Tax Fairness coalition. They include the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Maryland Retailers Association, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in Maryland, and members of Maryland's local journalism community, including print and broadcast media. Our membership is diverse, comes from all corners of the state, and grows every day. In addition, more than 2,000 Marylanders have signed the Marylanders For Tax Fairness petition supporting our mission and efforts.

Our goal is simple – we are asking the Maryland General Assembly to allow Governor Hogan's veto of HB 732 to stand. It would be a mistake for the legislature to override the governor during 2021 legislative session.

The collateral damage of enacting this legislation will be the many Maryland businesses fighting to survive and stay open during these trying times. As Senate President Bill Ferguson said in Senate testimony, the reality of the system is that taxes and costs will be pushed down on Marylanders and businesses throughout the state. There could not be a worse time to make doing business in Maryland more expensive than it already is.



www.MarylandTaxFairness.org



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If the legislature overrides the governor's veto, Maryland would have the notorious distinction of being the only state in the country to enact a digital advertising tax. This is not a welcomed distinction.

Today, businesses of all sizes are marketing online. Access to platforms that provide advertising is direct, easy to manage, and more people than ever are on those platforms – and this is why HB 732 is damaging to both Maryland's and countless local economies. HB 732 would raise taxes and the cost of doing business for all hardworking Marylanders. The ripple effect is obvious: higher taxes, higher prices, fewer jobs.

To be clear, this is not a campaign against the programs and projects the Maryland General Assembly wants to fund. This campaign is advocating for the small businesses and the Marylanders who will be needlessly hurt if the legislature continues to pursue this particular funding mechanism.

An incredible number of challenges have arisen since the legislature passed HB 732. It is the reality we all face today. The virus is still surging, and businesses are under more pressure than ever with new restrictions being placed on them every week.

For the sake of your constituents and all Marylanders, do not override Governor Hogan's veto and implement this tax. Doing so would only make life harder for the thousands of small businesses who are trying to keep their doors open and their employees paid.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Marylanders For Tax Fairness

Coalition Membership

127 Creative

360 Your Business

American Advertising Federation

American Advertising Federation of
Baltimore

American Advertising Federation of
Greater Frederick

American Cedar and Millwork

Anne Arundel Land Holdings, LLC

Antietam Broadband

Armadillo's Restaurant

Association of Magazine Media

Association of National Advertisers'

Baxter Tire & Auto

Bella Napoli

Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

Blackwall Barn and Lodge



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Blackwall Hitch
Brice's Barbershop
Broken Oar Bar and Grill
Calvert Chamber of Commerce
Candor Home Inspections
Central Maryland Chamber
Charles County Chamber of Commerce
Chesapeake Tile and Marble
Council On State Taxation
Cuckhoo Web Design
David's Natural Market
Devaney & Associates
Emarie Contracting
Equa
Fish Head Cantina
Founders Tavern & Grille
Frederick County Chamber of Commerce
Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of
Commerce
Garrett County Chamber of Commerce
Glen Burnie Bowl
Go, See & Do Travel
Golden Consulting Inc
Gray Developers
Greater Severna Park Chamber of
Commerce
Greater Silver Spring Chamber of
Commerce
Greenpoint Wellness
Harford County Chamber of Commerce
Haversack Law LLC
High Rock Studios

Howard County Chamber of Commerce
Impact Marketing
Interactive Advertising Bureau
Internet Association
Internet Coalition
Kurtz Beach
Laura's Eyes Photos
Law Office of Michael Malone
Liquified Creative
Magothy Payments
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Maryland DC Delaware Broadcasters
Association
Maryland Free
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Retailers Association
Maryland, Delaware, DC Press Association
MOJO
Motion Picture Association
Mrs. Kipke's Gun Storage
National Association of Broadcasters
National College Lacrosse League
National Taxpayers Union
NCTA
Network Advertising Initiative
New North
NFIB
Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of
Commerce
Parkway Deli
Pink Dog Digital
Pretzel and Pizza Creations



Prime Motorsports
RCM Utility Contractors
Red October Productions
Robin Ficker Law Offices
Ron George Jewelers
Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce
Sanders Jewelry
Schmidt Home Consultants
Smashing Grapes
Software & Information Industry
Association
SpeedPro
Sports and Imports
Strategic Partners Media

Sunset Tanning Salon
TechNet
The Greater Severna Park and Arnold
Chamber
The Healing Path
Tim's Automotive and Towing
Titan Hospitality Group
Twains Tavern
Two Rivers
Vaccaro's Little Italy Pastry Shop
Washington County Chamber of
Commerce
Westminster Speed & Sound
Zest Social Media Solutions

Cc: Members of the Maryland General Assembly

