



March 5, 2012

The Honorable Sheila E. Hixson  
Ways and Means Committee  
House Office Building, Room 131  
Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1912

RE: HB 956 – Income Tax – Capital Gains - **Oppose**

Dear Delegate Hixson:

HB 956 would impose an additional 2% state income tax on capital gains income, effective for taxable years beginning after 12/31/11. The Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce opposes HB 956 as a bill that would increase income taxes on small business owners.

Small businesses, of which we represent over 450, are the backbone of the Maryland economy and major providers of employment to our citizens. Increasing the income tax rate by the state will increase the burden on these providers of good and services making it more difficult to operate a business in our state.

If we want to encourage new business, foster business growth and retain current businesses we need to look for other ways to meet budget shortfalls. The volume of new taxation bills are beyond troubling. These signs indicate that there is a lack of political will to make difficult budget choices including cutting expenditures and instead place the burden on the backs of those who provide jobs, goods and service to Maryland.

For these reasons we ask that your committee gives HB 956 an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael McMullin'.

Michael McMullin  
President  
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

cc: Senator Joseph M. Getty  
Delegate Susan W. Krebs