



March 21, 2012

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

RE: HB 836 Income Tax - Repeal of the 1997 Income Tax Reduction - **Oppose**

Dear Delegate Hixson:

HB 836 would add a .25% rate increase for all brackets of the state individual income tax above 4%. The Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce opposes HB 836 as a bill that would increase income taxes on small business owners.

Small business owners 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 goods and services, making it more difficult to operate a business in our state. Raising taxes in the midst of a recovery is ill advised and counterproductive.

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 is 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 give HB 836 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