



February 27, 2017

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 691 – Corporations and Associations – Annual Reports – Filing Fees (Filing Fee Fairness Act of 2017) – Oppose

Dear Delegate Davis:

House Bill 691 would set filing fees based on assessed value of equipment reported. The Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill as we believe it will discourage business development and encourage businesses to remain in the State of Maryland.

We believe House Bill 691 is a step in the wrong direction towards fostering a more attractive climate for business in our state. This is especially true when nearby states have no personal property tax or filing fees. The actual rate applied to the assessed value is currently used to determine the tax. This would result in a double taxation.

The state of Maryland is at a critical juncture as the competition to attract new business and individuals is increasing. We have seen tax and fee increases over the past years. Moreover, the move toward increased regulation has had a negative impact on our business climate. We need to reverse this cycle for the future generations of Marylanders or we continue to lose both residents and businesses and at the same time become unattractive to those who are looking at our state as a place to call home.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 560 members therefore asks that your committee consider the positive long term detriments of House Bill 691 and give this bill an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

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

Michael McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Senator Justin Ready
Delegate Susan W. Krebs

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