



February 24, 2020

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

Re: HB 0965 – Labor and Employment - Minimum Wage - Allegany County and Garrett County – **Oppose**

Dear Delegate Davis:

HB 0965 would lengthen the time Allegany County and Garrett County businesses have to meet the \$15.00 per hour minimum wage now required of all other counties in the state of Maryland.

Employers with multiple locations are already faced with different wage requirements in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. Adding two more counties to the list of locations with different required minimum wages is an undue burden on such businesses.

Furthermore, there are several counties within Maryland that could benefit from a lower minimum wage. If a lower minimum is justified for Allegany and Garrett counties, it cannot be any less justified for other counties. The current minimum wage law was mistaken in not containing a pre-emption clause and allowing varying rates around the state. This should not be furthered and perpetuated by this bill.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 600 members, opposes this bill. We therefore request that you give this bill an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

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

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Delegate Haven Shoemaker
Senator Justin Ready