



February 3, 2020

The Honorable Will Smith  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: SB 0551 – Courts - Civil Jury Trials - Amount in Controversy – Oppose**

Dear Senator Zirkin:

This bill would not require a constitutional amendment, but would seek to increase the amount in controversy needed to receive a jury trial in civil cases from \$15,000 up to \$30,000.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce opposes this bill which would change the amount in controversy needed for a jury trial because there is no demonstrable need to increase this threshold. Ten years ago, in the 2010 legislative session, this threshold was increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000, and there is no evidence that a further increase is needed. This bill will especially hurt small businesses which would have no access to a jury trial in the case of a relatively small amount, which may be a large amount in relation to a small business.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Mike McMullin  
President  
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Senator Justin Ready  
Delegate Haven Shoemaker