



February 7, 2022

Economic Matters Committee
Delegate C. T. Wilson
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 0698 - Labor and Employment - State Minimum Wage Rate – Increase - Oppose

Dear Delegate Wilson:

This bill will accelerate the increase in the minimum wage – going from \$12.50 per hour to \$13.25 per hour – as of July 1, 2022, rather than January 1, 2023.

It makes no economic sense to add this financial burden to so many businesses that have been ravaged by the pandemic and have not yet recovered. Those businesses that can afford such increases are already taking that action in an attempt to attract scarce labor. However, there are many small businesses and non-profits that are simply unable to manage this increase now.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 680 members, opposes this bill and therefore requests that you give it an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

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

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Senator Justin Ready
Delegate Haven Shoemaker