



CITY OF ABERDEEN

February 24, 2020

The Honorable Ann Kaiser
Chairwoman, Ways and Means Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Michael A. Jackson
District 27B
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Benjamin S. Barnes
District 21
House Office Building, Room 151
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Mark S. Chang
District 32
House Office Building, Room 165
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Alonzo T. Washington
District 22
House Office Building, Room 131
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Establishment of Maryland Meals for Achievement Fund – House Bill 1145

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am the Mayor for the City of Aberdeen representing over 16,000 residents and over 400 businesses in my community. I am concerned about the impact of proposed House Bill 1145 which provides a sales and use tax to certain snack foods: potato chips and sticks; corn chips; pretzels; cheese puffs and curls; pork rinds; extruded pretzels and chips; popped popcorn; or snack mixtures that contain any one or more of the food items listed herein.

Frito Lay, Inc. a subsidiary of PepsiCo, Inc. located at 800 Hickory Drive has a 530,000 sq. ft. manufacturing and distribution facility in the City of Aberdeen employing over 800 people. Frito Lay, Inc. opened their manufacturing facility in Aberdeen in 1994; they have made over \$150 million of investments and continue to do so in their production facility, equipment, and distribution to increase their manufacturing of products. They offer many “healthy for you” products in addition to their snack food products at this facility. This company provides good, well-paying jobs that are needed in the State of Maryland.

On behalf of my constituents, I am in opposition of House Bill 1145 and I am deeply concerned about the implications of this Bill if it were to be passed. This is an unnecessary tax that will impact a long-standing business in my community that employs over 2,600 people in the State of Maryland, including Harford County and Aberdeen.

Sincerely,

PATRICK L. MCGRADY
MAYOR