

TRAVEL RETAIL SOLUTIONS LLC

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February 26, 2021

Bill: HB 1012- Labor and Employment- BWI- Thurgood Marshall Workers' Right to Reinstatement Act

Position: OPPOSE

Committee: House Economic Matters

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Laurie Weitz, and I am the owner of Travel Retail Solutions, LLC, an ACDBE company. We have operated restaurants at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport since 2006. We currently own two restaurants there. I am writing in opposition to HB 1012.

HB 1012 is an unnecessary government interference into the operations of privately owned businesses at BWI- Thurgood Marshall Airport. This bill inserts government into a poorly defined multi-step process for rehiring employees and targets a very small subset of restaurants and retail businesses at BWI.

This bill is also one in search of a problem. We want to rehire our employees that were unfortunately furloughed due to drastic reduction in passengers caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. We do not need a government involved process to do that. In fact, we have kept some of those employees on payroll and found jobs for others at our stores outside the airport. We are currently in the process of contacting our laid off employees about returning when we reopen one of stores in May and even more when business improves later this year.

My biggest complaint is why should employees at BWI concessions deserve your interest but the tens of thousands of other employees across the state do not? The only thing this bill does is add complexity and costs to small locally owned businesses that have suffered for 12 months during the pandemic.

During this time, we need to focus on supporting struggling businesses who were forced to lay off employees, and not impose burdens that will make it more difficult for struggling businesses to reopen and rehire these valuable team members. Additional and

significant regulatory requirements will only make it more difficult for us to reopen and workers to be rehired.

For these reasons, Travel Retail Solutions respectfully requests an unfavorable vote on HB 1012.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Laurie Weitz at briscopa@comcast.net

Sincerely,

Laurie J Weitz
President