



Testimony offered on behalf of:
THE GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IN SUPPORT OF:
SB 721 – Labor and Employment - State Minimum Wage Rate - Acceleration

Finance Committee
March 10, 2022

On behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, representing 500 member organizations in Western Maryland, I write to express our opposition for **SB 721 – Labor and Employment – State Minimum Wage Rate – Acceleration.**

Increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour was a 49% increase to Maryland’s previous rate of \$10.10 per hour. At \$12.50 per hour, Maryland’s minimum wage is 43% higher than our neighboring state of West Virginia (\$8.75/hour) and 72% higher than Pennsylvania (\$7.25/hour).

Raising Maryland’s minimum wage is putting businesses in Garrett County at a competitive disadvantage with our neighbors. And for those that say the higher wage will help recruit workers, that is absolutely false. The currently higher minimum wage in Maryland has not helped attract workers to the westernmost part of the State.

Businesses in Garrett County need more time to prepare and absorb the economic impacts of the minimum wage increase.

The Chamber respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE committee report on SB 721.**

Sincerely,

Holly Lane

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