

**EAGLE AMUSEMENTS INC.  
8132 BAYSIDE ROAD  
CHESAPEAKE BEACH, MD 20732  
301-855-0766**

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Reference: House Bill -**HB0257**

My name is Gary Lockett, I am the owner of a small business, Eagle Amusements Inc., which is located at 8132 Bayside Road, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732. Chesapeake Beach is a small town with plenty of charm, beauty, tourism, and excitement. In that small town I have been operating Electronic Bingo Pull Tab Dispensers since late 2004. My small business has become a favored location with locals as well as a heavily patronized place to visit from our welcomed tourist. Over many years, Eagle Amusements Inc. has been a major supporter and contributor to our surrounding community organizations including but not limited to, local youth sports, churches, fundraisers, and town activities. These participations and contributions are a way to say, "Thank You" back to the community for their support in my business.

Since 2008, Eagle Amusements Inc. has been restricted to the number of dispensing machines we are allowed to have and operate. Over these past fifteen years, we have had to endure higher amusement tax increases, adaptation of evolving rules, regulations, and requirements, modernizations, inflations and most of all changes all around us. These changes are limited to my business in the ability to modernize and create a different environment without having the want, need and desire to expand in some capacity. Large Casinos that have evolved in the state over the past 12 years have impacted us based on their size alone and ability to offer many choices for their customers.

In closing, I am asking for you to consider the passing of **HB0257**, a bill which will help not only my business's ability to expand in some capacity but others in like and in kind as well. Small business is a strong thriving threshold to our local town and community as it is across the state of Maryland abroad.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary P. Lockett

Eagle Amusements Inc.