



ACTION ALERT

ACTION ALERT: DRIVE-IN & PRESS CONFERENCE ON MONDAY, MARCH 2

Dear Members,

The House of Delegates is at it again. Last Thursday, several House Democrats introduced a bill—**HB 1628: Sales-and-Use Tax, Rate Reduction and Services**—that would result in a **massive tax increase of \$2.6 billion** for Marylanders, the largest single tax increase in Maryland history.

This piece of legislation would lower the sales tax from 6% to 5% but would **expand that 5% sales tax to everyday services that have never been taxed before**: legal services, accounting services, realtor services, home improvement, gym memberships and auto services—just to name a few.

That's **\$2.6 billion out of our pockets** and a devastating blow to economic growth and hardworking small business owners and their families in Maryland. Note that House leadership has previously been adamant that an increase or expansion of sales, income and/or property taxes **would not** be necessary to pay for implementation of the Kirwan Commission's education proposals.

ACTION REQUESTED:

HB 1628 poses a grave threat to the business community. We need your help in conveying this urgent message to the General Assembly, so please join us for a “drive-in” and press conference this coming **Monday, March 2**.

Please spread the word to your members and urge them to join us on Monday!

- **WHAT:** Drive-In and Joint Press Conference to declare opposition to HB 1628
- **WHO:** Hosted by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Maryland Retailers Association, Maryland Motor Truck Association, and many other business organizations TBA
- **WHEN:** Monday, March 2, 2020
 - **LITERATURE DROP-OFF:** 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.*
 - **PRESS CONFERENCE:** 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- **WHERE:** House of Delegates Office Building, Meeting Room 180: Baltimore County Delegation Room, 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

At 9 a.m., we will be heading to legislators' offices to deliver a one-pager on how HB 1628 will harm the business community. Please meet in Room 180 no later than **8:45 a.m. if you would like to join us for the literature drop-off.*

The press conference will begin promptly at **11 a.m.** The hearing on HB 1628 is slated to take place in the House Ways & Means Committee at **1 p.m.**, just after our press conference. Join us as we go door to door at 9 a.m., for the press conference at 11 a.m., for the hearing at 1 p.m.—or for all three.

Please contact Ashley Duckman, our VP of government affairs, to let her know what portion of the day's events you will be attending (aduckman@mdchamber.org / 410-269-0642).

Below, you will find a letter from the Maryland Chamber of Commerce that we plan to send to leaders in the House of Delegates. **If you have not yet signed on to the letter and would like to, please contact Ashley Duckman ASAP (aduckman@mdchamber.org).** You may also feel free to send the letter directly from your own business or organization or use it as a guide to draft your own personalized letter about why HB 1628 will have a direct negative impact on you and your business.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday!

Sincerely,



President and CEO

Maryland Chamber of Commerce

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