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Subject: *NEW SUBMISSION* Submit Comments - Commissioners' Public Comment Sessions
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 2:36:18 AM

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Submit Comments - Commissioners' Public Comment Sessions

Submission #: 3057994
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Submission Date: 03/11/2024 2:36
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Read-Only Content

Name

Raj Singh

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Comment

I own the tinderbox cigar lounge and society hookah bar in Waldorf. Currently in Annapolis there is a bill (Senate Bill 244 cross referenced with House Bill 238). The bill itself originally adds Vape products to the prohibited list on the clean indoor act, which I do not oppose, however, an amendment was attached to the bill that would take away my liquor licenses for both bars. The amendment states "...an establishment may not possess an OTP tobacco license and liquor license, only one of the 2 licenses would be permitted in the establishment." This would hurt my businesses gravely and would ultimately force me to close my doors and let go of my 22 employees who are all Charles county residents. The tinderbox has been in Charles county since 1998 and society hookah bar has been in Charles county since 2015. Both businesses have hired only Charles county residents and also give back to various charities and groups in the county for many years proudly. I'm asking the commissioners to please oppose this amendment to the Senate Finance committee and Economic Matters Committee in the house of delegates. Aside from my businesses, 2 other minority owned businesses would lose their liquor licenses as well, Privilege Cigar bar in Waldorf and Invictus Cigar Lounge in Waldorf. My businesses are 100% minority and women owned businesses. The

2 other businesses, Privilege Lounge and Invictus Lounge, are black owned businesses. This amendment is detrimental to all of our businesses in the Charles county and we all please request and beg of you to please send an letter of opposition to the Senate Finance committee (Attn. to Chair person Pam Bidel) and Economic Matters Committee (Attn. to Chair Person C.T. Wilson). Thank you for your time in this very important matter.

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Thank you,

Charles County, MD

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