



February 6, 2019

Dear Council President Navarro, Vice President Katz, and members of the County Council,

We respectfully submit this joint letter to ask that the Council enhance its position of “support” on House Bill 166 - *Labor and Employment - Payment of Wages - Minimum Wage and Enforcement (Fight for Fifteen)* to support with amendments.

We appreciated the conversation at the February 4th State Legislation briefing regarding the impact the state bill will have on Montgomery County businesses and nonprofits. As was noted, there are large discrepancies between the proposed legislation and current county law including, but not limited to, the size of employers, tipped wage, exemptions for specific jobs, and phase-in times.

We echo the County’s support of a statewide \$15 minimum wage and understand that House Bill 166 may be heavily amended. However, we believe the County must go beyond a position of support and join our Chambers in the position of “support with amendments,” which will better conform the proposed legislation to county law, thereby alleviating any confusion on compliance for our businesses and nonprofits.

Please consider the direct impact on our small businesses as you continue to discuss this proposed legislation. We look forward to working with the Council on this and other upcoming legislation that impacts our economic competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ginanne Italiano

President and CEO

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of
Commerce

Marilyn Balcombe

President and CEO

Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of
Commerce

Marji Graf

President and CEO

Rockville Chamber of Commerce

Jane Redicker

President and CEO

Greater Silver Spring Chamber of
Commerce

Georgette “Gigi” Godwin

President and CEO

Montgomery County Chamber of
Commerce