



**THREE RIVERS
BUSINESS ALLIANCE**

May 25, 2018

Ronald L. Hicks, Jr.
President/Director

Stephen Donaldson
Vice-President/Director

Conrad Bricker
Treasurer/Director

Michael Testa
Secretary/Director

Mark Winner
Director

John E. Kandray
Director

Sean Gray
Director

Denise DeSimone
Director

Missie Bertoetti
Director

VIA FAX

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives
416 Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Attn: Rep. Brian Ellis, Chairman, House Commerce Committee (717.782.2907)
Rep. Curtis Thomas, Ranking Member, House Commerce Committee (717.787.7297)

RE: House Bill (HB) 2241

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

Three Rivers Business Alliance (3RBA) is the chamber of commerce representing LGBT+ business leaders and allies in the Pittsburgh/Greater Allegheny County region. We write today to express our support for HB-2241, which prohibits local governments from imposing taxes on food, beverages and containers.

We have watched with concern at the situation across the commonwealth in Philadelphia, where a beverage tax imposed in 2017 has caused severe economic harm to food retailers, corner stores, restaurants and other local businesses. That tax has caused consumers to flee to nearby suburban counties and, according to a study by the Oxford Economics international consulting firm, led to the loss of nearly 1,200 jobs in the city.

We don't want to find our members in the same situation some time down the road. Let's learn from Philadelphia's ill-conceived policy and protect both our small local businesses and our consumers now while we have the opportunity. Businesses across Pennsylvania deserve a uniform tax policy that fosters an even playing field and allows us to fairly compete.

Our members work hard to contribute to the community and contribute to the regional economy, making Pittsburgh one of the most vital economic centers in our commonwealth and our region. We deserve certainty that taxes like this won't come to Western Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your attention, and please do not hesitate to contact us to further discuss this important issue.

Very truly yours,

Ronald L. Hicks, Jr.
President

2891563.1

*** FAX TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

JOB NO. 0053
DESTINATION ADDRESS 17177822907
SUBADDRESS
DESTINATION ID
ST. TIME 05/25 08:36
TX/RX TIME 00' 41
PGS. 1
RESULT OK



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TRANSMISSION OK

JOB NO. 0054
DESTINATION ADDRESS 17177877297
SUBADDRESS
DESTINATION ID
ST. TIME 05/25 08:37
TX/RX TIME 00' 31
PGS. 1
RESULT OK



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