

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES Annapolis, Maryland 21401

August 19, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Lierman Comptroller of Maryland Annapolis, MD 21404 {Delivered Electronically}

Dear Comptroller Lierman,

We write on behalf of the Maryland Freedom Caucus and Maryland taxpayers regarding the Digital Advertising Gross Revenues Tax (HB 732, 2020 Session). From the beginning, many of our members warned that this tax was unconstitutional, unworkable, and would ultimately harm Maryland taxpayers.

As stewards of taxpayer funds, and in light of the recent ruling by the Fourth Circuit of Appeals, we request answers to the following questions:

- 1. Revenue Collected: How much has the State of Maryland collected under the digital advertising tax since its implementation? Please provide a year-by-year breakdown.
- 2. Escrow and Safeguards: Were the revenues from this tax held in escrow or otherwise reserved while the litigation proceeded? If so, how much is in escrow today? If not, where have the funds been allocated?
- 3. **Refund Liability**: In the event that Maryland courts or federal courts rule the entire tax invalid, what is the State's potential refund exposure? Does your office have an estimate of how much would have to be returned to payers, as well as interest.
- 4. Current Status: Is your office still collecting the tax following the recent appellate ruling, or have collections been suspended?

This information is essential for legislators and, more importantly, for the people of Maryland. Taxpayers deserve transparency about the money collected, the risks of repayment, and whether proper safeguards were in place as this tax faced ongoing litigation.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Delegate Lauren Arikan Delegate Robin Grammer Delegate Ryan Nawrocki

Delegate Brian Chisholm