



Dear Members of the County Council,

We are writing in strong opposition to CB-018-2025, which would increase taxes on wireless consumers and disproportionately affect families in need. Tax increases like the ones outlined in this piece of legislation impose unfair taxes on those who are least able to afford them. Changing the current tax from 9% of the monthly bill to a fixed charge of \$3.50 per line per month is not fair or equitable for the residents of Prince George's County. Families select their wireless plans based on what is affordable for them, this bill would have a family that chooses the lowest cost plan paying the same as a family that selects the highest cost plan – that is unfair and unjust.

On average a family with four wireless lines would go from paying \$4.50 per month to \$14.00 per month, over \$100 a year in new taxes, resulting in a 269% increase. In total, Prince George's County residents currently pay \$14 million in telephone taxes per year. This proposal would cause County residents to pay nearly \$52 million in telephone taxes. Families are already living paycheck to paycheck and are already facing rising rent, grocery prices, and everyday living expenses. This is not the time to add another \$10 per month to the wireless bills of families in Prince George's County, for many that will be the choice between a carton of eggs and staying connected.

To add insult to injury, County residents already pay the 6% state sales tax and a 911 fee of \$1.41 per line per month. This proposal would cause a typical family's wireless bill with four lines to go from an already excessive \$160 in total tax payments a year to over \$260, causing an undue burden on Prince George's County families.

We urge you to protect Prince George's County residents from unfair taxes and vote NO on CB-018-2025.

Sincerely,

Robert Branson

President and CEO

Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC)

Jerry McLaurin

President

PFC Black Chamber Of Commerce, Inc.