

**Senate Local Government Committee
Public Hearing: Philadelphia Beverage Tax
June 23, 2017**

**Testimony of Lou Meyer
Vice President, Operations, The Briad Group**

Philadelphia Syrup Tax Impact on Business- Wendy's Restaurants

My testimony will discuss the impact of the syrup tax on my company and the unfair level of the tax. I will also discuss the impact on financial health of the restaurants, cut backs that are made necessary concerning employee hours, hiring additional employees & summer help as well as cut back on local services that have been utilized.

The uncertainty of the Philadelphia legislative branch will force my company to look hard before we invest additional funds in building additional restaurants in the city and decrease the funds already allocated for community events and cause giving as we are forced to find ways to capture the costs incurred that will not be able to be passed onto the guests as we go forward.

Sales have taken a negative turn as many other businesses in the city have also suffered decreased sales and layoffs. The positive side is the increased sales on restaurants, supermarkets, beverage centers, convenience stores surrounding Philly that do not pay the tax.