

March 5, 2020

TO: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee  
FROM: Visit Baltimore  
RE: **HB1284 – OPPOSE – State Tax Credits, Exemptions and Deductions-Alterations and Repeal (Tax Modernization Act)**

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Dear Chairwoman Kaiser and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

As the official destination marketing organization for the City of Baltimore, Visit Baltimore's mission is to generate economic benefits through the attraction of leisure visitors and conventions.

On behalf of the Whitman Coin and Collectibles Expo, we respectfully request that you oppose **HB1284**, which calls for repealing the sales and use tax exemption for the sale of certain "precious metal bullion and coins".

The Whitman Coin expo comes to Baltimore three times per year, drawing more than 11,000 attendees, and generating an estimated annual economic impact of \$4.9 million. If this bill passes without an explicit exemption for coins and collectibles, our client has indicated they will be forced to leave the state, taking with them the millions of dollars they bring to our city each year.

We believe it is essential to preserve our relationship with the Whitman Coin expo and we urge you to support our request to ensure Baltimore remains their preferred destination.

Submitted respectfully,



Al Hutchinson  
President & CEO, Visit Baltimore