

ALLEGANY MUSEUM

AT THE CROSSROADS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991

Subject: Economic Development – Tourism Zones

Dear Senators:

The Allegany Museum strongly supports SB 14 which provides for property tax credits against the county or municipal property tax imposed on certain real property and certain personal property located within a tourism zone.

Allegany Museum is helping promote Maryland as a destination for heritage tourism. Currently, over 60 percent of our visitors are from out of State. Tourism gives the area an essential economic boost and creates pride in the region's history. One of every ten jobs in Allegany County is now related to our tourist industry. Allegany Museum is also integral to the Cumberland Arts and Entertainment District. We currently are the second poorest county in the state so many of our local visitors are below the poverty level. Over 65% of the children in our county's school are eligible for USDA free school lunch reimbursement. A couple of the schools we host are at the 100% level. We believe heritage tourism can play a vital role in revitalization of our community.

Each year the Museum barely covers operating expenses. We are a volunteer non-profit organization. The proposed legislation would give the Museum some much needed financial support. We appreciate your continued support in empowering local tourism organizations in their quest to make Maryland a top tourist destination.

Sincerely,



Christopher Logsdon
President

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