



February 27, 2024

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the
House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB1281 – Economic Development – Tourism Zones – Designations and Benefits

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of Visit Frederick (the Tourism Council of Frederick County), the designated and official destination marketing organization for Frederick County, MD, please accept this letter of support for HB1281 – Economic Development – Tourism Zones – Designation and Benefits.

HB1281 will provide the governing body of a municipality with a much-needed mechanism and catalyst to incentivize business development and economic growth. It will allow these municipalities to craft a Tourism Zone that is specific to their own community and their own beneficial desire to expand tourism businesses, including lodging, dining, retail, meeting and sports facilities, outdoor recreation areas, theme parks and various event venues.

Tourism Zones will create local incentives that can be offered to stimulate business attraction, encourage capital investment, drive economic growth, along with increased job creation and employment opportunities within those designated areas of a locality. These incentives can include, but is not limited: hiring credits, sales & use tax incentives, expense and interest deductions, discounted utilities hook-up and payment plans, sewer facility hookup payment plans, and reduced parking requirements.

We encourage everyone on the House Ways and Means Committee to support HB1281. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Ziedelis".

Dave Ziedelis
Executive Director