



March 10, 2020

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am writing in support of **House Bill 1493 Worcester County – Special Event Zone - Penalties**. The Ocean City Tourism Department and Convention and Visitors Bureau respectfully ask the Environment and Transportation Committee for your favorable report on this bill to enable the Town of Ocean City to provide a safe environment for the thousands of visitors and second-home owners who come to our resort town to enjoy all that we offer as a vacation destination.

The Ocean City Tourism Department works diligently to promote Ocean City as a premier vacation destination. Public safety is the town's top priority and HB 1493 will go a long way to help protect our visitors and residents by creating special events zones and lowering speed limits during these designated event times.

We believe this will bring assurances that Ocean City is safe to our thousands of visitors and residents who are not a part of these events as well as those law-abiding citizens who are participants. While these motor vehicle events bring in thousands of participants, we also have in town at the same time many others who may be attending a convention or enjoying our beaches and attractions who we want to feel safe traveling around Ocean City during their stay.

The Ocean City Tourism Department and Convention and Visitors Bureau firmly believe these special events zones and lowered speed limits will foster increased tourism, benefitting the Town and the State. That is why we respectfully ask the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 1493.

Respectfully,

Donna Abbott

Donna Abbott
Director
Ocean City Tourism Department