



**MARYLAND
TOURISM
COALITION**

**LETTER OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF
MARYLAND TOURISM COALITION**

IN SUPPORT OF HB1541 TASK FORCE ON THE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN MARYLAND

Before the House Ways & Means March 5, 2020

Dear Chairman & Committee Members,

My name is Ruth Toomey, Executive Director of Maryland Tourism Coalition, a 50-year old organization that represents the various services, attractions, organizations and accommodations that make up the State's Industry. On behalf of our 1,000+ members, I would like to express our support of HB0019.

Tourism is important to Maryland's economy! It creates 150,000 (and growing) jobs. It is the 10th largest industry in the state. Visitors to Maryland spend nearly \$18.1 billion in Maryland each year. Visitors generate close to \$2.5 billion in state and local taxes. Without tourism in the state of Maryland, each household would pay \$1,140 more in local taxes.

MTC represents our state's diverse tour and travel community, bringing together the entire industry to enhance business growth and to promote Maryland as a first-class destination for visitors. MTC is in favor of additional financial support and increased opportunities for all our members.

On behalf of the Maryland Tourism Coalition, we respectfully request that you support HB1541.

Sincerely,

Ruth Toomey

Ruth Toomey
MTC Executive Director