



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

**IN OPPOSITION OF HB 1354 Sales and Use Tax - Services
Ways and Means – March 2, 2020**

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and committee members:

My name is Kristin Hanna, Legislative Chair of the 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 opposition of HB1354.

Tourism is extremely important to Maryland's economy! It creates 150,000 (and growing) jobs and is the 10th largest industry in the state. Visitors to Maryland spend nearly \$18.1 billion in Maryland each year and they 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.

Most of our tourism businesses are small businesses; an additional tax on these services will be detrimental to this industry. The small businesses in this state have already started absorbing higher costs due to various legislation – we ask that you recognize the burden an additional tax would do to all of our businesses that book travel or take reservations. These companies should be rewarded for bringing more people to the beautiful state of Maryland.

On behalf of the Maryland Tourism Coalition, we respectfully request that you oppose HB1354.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hanna

Kristin Hanna
MTC Legislative Chair and Board Member