



TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

The White Marlin Capital of the World

February 22, 2021

Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

LETTER OF SUPPORT

SENATE BILL 0730 – INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR TRAVEL, HOSPITALITY AND ENTERTAINMENT ESPENSES

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Distinguished Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

On behalf of the Town of Ocean City, I would like to express our support for Senate Bill 0730. Over the past year, the Town of Ocean City has been diligently working with our partners to keep our industry alive during these unprecedented times.

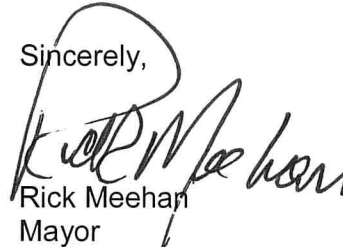
Senate Bill 0730 provides state income tax credits to Marylanders who travel within the state and spend money on hospitality related purchases. In-state travel must occur at least 50 miles from their permanent residence, and purchases must include: food and beverage, lodging, transportation, tickets for live entertainment and sporting events or expenses related to attending a conference or business meeting.

The tourism industry as a whole has been severely battered by this pandemic, and we need to take proactive and aggressive measures to preserve tourism in Maryland. As the 11th largest industry in the state, it is imperative to our economic recovery that we enlist all means necessary to support tourism. In a typical year, tourism supports 226,000 direct and indirect jobs, making it the 11th largest industry in the state.

Tourism in Ocean City is our number one lifeline, generating \$1.74 billion in state and local taxes in FY20 and supplying more than 12,500 jobs. The tax credit would incentive Marylanders to explore their home state. Not only will travelers be stimulating the economy, but they will also be creating experiences with their friends and family and sharing that with others who will then want to join in the fun.

We respectfully request that you support Senate Bill 0730.

Sincerely,



Rick Meehan
Mayor

MAYOR
RICHARD W. MEEHAN

CITY COUNCIL

MATTHEW M. JAMES
President

ANTHONY J. DELUCA
Secretary

PETER S. BUAS
JOHN F. GEHRIG, JR.
J. FRANKLIN KNIGHT
LLOYD MARTIN
MARK L. PADDACK

CITY MANAGER
DOUGLAS R. MILLER

CITY CLERK
DIANA L. CHAVIS, CMC

www.oceancitymd.gov

P.O. BOX 158 • OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND • 21843-0158



City Hall – (410) 289-8221 • FAX – (410) 289-8703