

ESHAM FAMILY PROPERTIES
P.O. BOX 77
BERLIN, MARYLAND 21811

February 3, 2021

Dear Chairman & Committee Members,

I have been advised that House Bill 581 is being scheduled for a hearing on Friday, February 5th at 11:00am. House Bill 581, as you know, relates to employment standards during an emergency, and would create a number of new employer mandates and costs including hazard pay, financial assistance for health care costs and universal health and bereavement leaves among other provisions.

All of us in the hotel and tourist business are concerned regarding the benefit and wellbeing of our workers. However, respectfully, during the continuation of the present COVID pandemic is not the time to implement such costly and complex employer mandates. Many of us struggle to keep our employees during this time when visits and tourist presence in Ocean City and surrounding area is severely limited due to travel limitations and safety concerns of visitors. It is therefore, respectfully requested that at this time, House Bill 581 would either be withdrawn or tabled for future action, following what is the hopeful betterment of conditions after widespread COVID vaccinations had been accomplished.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Very truly yours,



William E. Esham, Jr.