



HOTEL • MOTEL • RESTAURANT • ASSOCIATION • INC.

**TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF
THE OCEAN CITY HOTEL-MOTEL-RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION**

**IN SUPPORT OF HB508 COVID-19 Claim - Civil Immunity
Before the Judiciary Committee**

February 3, 2021

On behalf of Ocean City hospitality industry, we respectfully request your support of HB508. These essential protections would safeguard against unfair lawsuits so businesses can continue to contribute to a safe and effective economic recovery. We believe this legislation is critical to recovery and should be enacted as soon as possible.

Our members have continued to adapt in creative ways to provide a safe place to work and visit. Through their perseverance, many have been successful in keeping workers employed and our local tourism economy afloat. Our hospitality businesses continue to agonize that despite doing their best to follow government guidelines, they will be forced to defend against frivolous lawsuits. Unfortunately, this concern has already begun to materialize around the nation. Corporations are restricting business travel and not putting their employees back on the road until liability protections are in place.

Throughout this crisis, Maryland businesses and government have proven that we can come together for the good of all. Now, more than ever, we need to come together to pass needed liability protections. As lawmakers, we are certain you understood the acute threat of lawsuits during moments of economic vulnerability. We urge you to act now and provide protections to prevent a wave of lawsuits from hampering Maryland's return to a robust economy.

Protecting Maryland businesses allows us to stay afloat and in turn protects jobs. The OCHMRA respectfully requests your support of HB508. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Jones
Executive Director