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My name is Steve Green, owner of High Mountain Sports at Deep Creek Lake, and Legislative Affairs Chair of the Garrett County Chamber Commerce.

Many tourism areas have done well but a lot have been decimated.

At first glance this looks like a money grab to help the rich. Reality is this could not be further from the truth. Let us focus the money from the wealthy to help hard hit businesses and put the people who work in these industries back to work.

The Tourism and Hospitality Industry in Maryland and the world has been battered by the pandemic. According to the U.S. Travel Association travel is down almost 500 billion dollars in the US, resulting in \$64 billion in missed federal, state, and local tax revenue since the beginning of March. Of all jobs lost nationwide, 39% are in leisure and hospitality.

[https://www.ustravel.org/system/files/media\\_root/document/Research\\_Fact-Sheet\\_Industry-Table.pdf](https://www.ustravel.org/system/files/media_root/document/Research_Fact-Sheet_Industry-Table.pdf)

SB 730 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

There has been a lot of short-term relief but there has been little long-term planning to rebuild this industry. This is a long-term solution to help rebuild this industry. Will there be pent up demand? Yes, and they are going to get on a plane to spend money out of state unless they are given a reason to spend their money in Maryland.

Please pass this bill so that we can be forward thinking about the future of this industry.