



HOTEL • MOTEL • RESTAURANT • ASSOCIATION • INC.

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

IN SUPPORT OF SB622 – Income Tax Credit for Travel, Hospitality and Entertainment

Before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Hearing March 2, 2022

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

On behalf of the Ocean City hospitality industry with 400+ members, and as a Member of the Maryland Tourism Coalition, I am writing to respectfully request your support of this thoughtfully crafted legislation. Since 1971, our Association has been uniting the Ocean City tourism community. Without a doubt, this pandemic has affected the leisure and hospitality industry harder than any other industry. This bill provides an opportunity to keep Marylanders employed as it would certainly spur travel from the Eastern Shore beaches to the Western Maryland mountains and all the fabulous places in between.

Encouraging travel around our State through the proposed tax credit incentives is a real benefit which would be well received by your constituents. Keeping the dollars in our State is of utmost importance to everyone's local economies. Tourism is an economic engine and provides a return to the State and counties in the form of sales tax, admission & amusement tax, alcohol tax and accommodation tax.

In Maryland, 95% of tourism operations are small businesses, folks living and working in our communities. SB622 offers a workable solution other than a cash handout. It provides real incentives to support local hotels, restaurants, attractions, and entertainment venues and that would certainly help as it will take years to get back to pre-pandemic business levels.

Please feel free to contact me directly at 410.726.0334 with any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration in support of SB622.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Jones, OCHMRA Executive Director
Member MD Tourism Coalition