



**The Greater Ocean City, Maryland
Chamber of Commerce, Inc.**

**TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF
THE GREATER OCEAN CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

IN SUPPORT OF:

**SB0538 – Altering the Definition of Agritourism to
Include Special Events and Occasions**

**Before the:
Senate Education Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 9th, 2022
1:00 P.M.**

As Executive Director of the Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, an organization that represents approximately 850 plus members in Ocean City and the surrounding region, I am asking you to support **SB0538 – Altering the Definition of Agritourism to Include Special Events and Occasions**.

In Worcester County, agriculture is one of the largest industries, with most farms being family-run and/or family-owned. The cost of feed, seed and other supplies have in many instances quadrupled in cost over the last year leaving many farm owners in a position of forced sale or development.

Allowing them to use their farm buildings for agritourism would allow them to diversify practices and maintain ownership. We welcome the opportunity to support legislation that would support two of the largest industry sectors in our region, both tourism and agriculture.

Again, we humbly ask that you support **SB0538**.

Best regards,

Lachelle Scarlato
Executive Director
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Legislative Committee Chair
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