

Visit HAGERSTOWN & Washington County, Maryland

February 11, 2023

Senator Paul Corderman
James Senate Office Building, Room 416
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Reference: Senate Bill 0533

Dear Senator Corderman,

The Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is a 501 C6 nonprofit corporation with a mission to grow the economy of Washington County Maryland through the promotion of travel and tourism. The CVB is a member-based Destination Marketing Organization with 279 member businesses employing 7.7% of the County's work force. The CVB in full support of Senate Bill 0533.

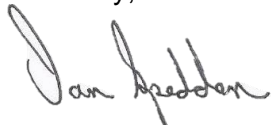
FOR the purpose of repealing the authority of Washington County and municipal corporations in Washington County to impose an admissions and amusement tax; and generally relating to the admissions and amusement tax and Washington County.

Admissions and amusement taxes tend to randomly and unfairly land on tourists and tourism related businesses. These businesses and the services and experiences they offer are subjected to normal excise taxes and then hit again with admission and amusement taxes. Admission and amusement taxes are confusing to businesses owners and not evenly applied across our industry.

Washington County is in that narrow part of the State of Maryland where activities and experiences in Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania are always an option. Maryland can gain a competitive edge over neighboring states by reducing the price of the kinds of activities and experiences sought out by tourists. Eliminating the admission and amusement tax will give CVB member businesses that competitive edge.

Please support Senate Bill 0533.

Sincerely,



Dan Spedden, President

Hagerstown-Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau

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