



TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

The White Marlin Capital of the World

February 14, 2023

Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0545 Vehicle Laws - Annual Vehicle Shows - Motor and Trailer Homes

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

In Ocean City, tourism is our only economic engine, driving fiscal growth and employment in our town, as millions of visitors travel to our coastal community each year. To grow this economic engine, we must continue offering various accommodations, activities, and events year-round.

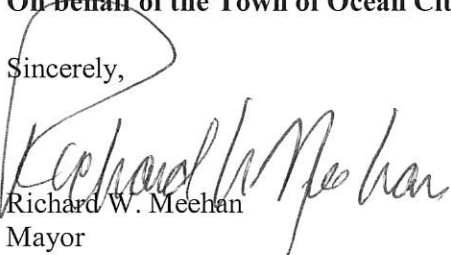
Ocean City has a great partnership with the State of Maryland and the Roland E. Powell Convention Center. Hosting an event show of this type at the convention center will attract more visitors to town, creating more revenue for the convention center and the State of Maryland. RV and Van Life travel became very desirable after COVID-19. According to the 2022 KOA Camping Report, RV ownership has increased by 62% in the last 20 years. In 2021, camping accounted for 40% of all leisure trips, with more than half of the travelers including camping in some or all of their travels. In addition, 56% of campers were interested in an RVing experience in 2022, including 47% who would like to experiment with full-time RVing and 43% who want to live the "van life."

Travelers are discovering new ways to visit places like Ocean City, however; currently, Maryland law restricts purchases of these vehicles from out-of-state dealers within the State. To clarify, an RV licensed dealer needs to own and operate a business in the State of Maryland to display their product at venues such as the Convention Center, which is looking forward to hosting its first-ever RV show in the fall.

To offer Ocean City's 8 million visitors the most variety and for the Town to have the ability to host events such as the OC RV Show, we respectfully ask for you to include the RV licensed dealers and trailer dealers who make it possible for them to travel to different places also to be able to display.

On behalf of the Town of Ocean City, I would like to express our support for House Bill 545.

Sincerely,


Richard W. Meehan
Mayor

MAYOR
RICHARD W. MEEHAN

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