



CITY OF CUMBERLAND MARYLAND

January 18, 2024

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Bill: SB 14 – Economic Development – Tourism Zones – Designation and Benefits

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

On behalf of the Mayor and City Council of Cumberland, I am eager to express our support for Senate Bill 14, as the ability to establish tourism zones, define tourism enterprises and offer incentives to qualified businesses would enhance the appeal of our rural setting and our close proximity to an abundance of outdoor amenities.

Situated at the crossroads of the Potomac River, CSX Railroad, I-68, Great Allegheny Passage and the C&O Canal Towpath, the City of Cumberland has every ingredient needed to leverage its resources for a thriving economy and a high quality of life. Established in 1787, and once the second largest city in the State of Maryland, Cumberland's greatest assets are its natural and historic resources which serve as a strong foundation to build upon as we position ourselves as a premier tourist destination in the Western region of the state.

Opportunities created through the tourism bill would enhance the capability of the City of Cumberland to create the future we envision, a revitalized place of pride and identity for residents, and one of the must-see destination spaces for visitors.

Tourism in the Western region of the state would add powerful impact to the city's economy, as well as the State of Maryland and would bring new energy, ensuring that the City of Cumberland is an attractive destination to live, work and play.

For these reasons the Mayor and City of Cumberland respectfully request that this committee provide Senate Bill 14 with a favorable report.

Respectfully,

Raymond M. Morriss
Mayor

MAYOR

RAYMOND M. MORRISS

COUNCIL

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