



Worcester County Government

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January 22, 2024

Honorable Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary
6 Bladen Street, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The Worcester County Commissioners fully support HB 185 – Eastern Shore Code Counties – Maximum Hotel Rental Tax Rate – Alteration. HB 185 would grant Worcester County the authority to increase the County room tax from five percent to a maximum of six percent. As background, in January 2022 we endorsed a request from the Ocean City Mayor and Council for this legislation, as it would allow the town to cover future tourism-related expenses.

As you know, hotel room tax revenues provide a dedicated source to fund tourism and tourism-related activities, and the return for each dollar invested in tourism marketing generates \$31 in visitor spending, making the authority to increase hotel room tax by up to an additional one percent mutually beneficial to each of our Eastern Shore Code Home Rule Counties, as we promote tourism-related activities that attract residents and visitors alike to live, play, and explore our Eastern Shore communities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony W. Bertino, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
President

CC: Senator Mary Beth Carozza
Delegate Wayne Hartman
Delegate Charles Otto