



Ocean City, Maryland Chamber of Commerce

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

IN SUPPORT OF:

SB0095 – Eastern Shore Code Counties – Maximum Hotel Rental Tax Rate - Alteration

Before:

Budget and Taxation Committee

Hearing: 1/24/24 at 1:00 PM

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 700 regional businesses and job creators, **SUPPORTS Senate Bill SB0095 – Eastern Shore Code Counties – Maximum Hotel Rental Tax Rate - Alteration**. This enabling legislation would grant the Eastern Shore Code Home Rule Counties the authority to increase the hotel room tax rate from five percent to a maximum of six percent. The hotel rental tax rate is a dedicated source of funding for tourism and tourism-related expenses, including providing sufficient public safety for all those who come here to visit. An estimated 2/3 of visitors to Ocean City are residents of nearby states, infusing Maryland's economy with consumer spending from outside sources.

The Greater Ocean City Chamber respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT for SB0095**. Please feel free to contact the Chamber directly at 410-213-0144 should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Amy Thompson
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