



Worcester County Government

One West Market Street | Room 1103 | Snow Hill MD 21863-1195

(410) 632-1194 | (410) 632-3131 (fax) | admin@co.worcester.md.us | www.co.worcester.md.us

January 22, 2024

Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Guy Guzzone and Budget and Taxation Committee Members:

The Worcester County Commissioners fully support SB 95 – Eastern Shore Code Counties – Maximum Hotel Rental Tax Rate – Alteration. SB 95 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 black ink, appearing to read "Anthony W. Bertino, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
President

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