



## 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:

#### **HB0186 – Eastern Shore Code Counties - Maximum Hotel Rental Tax Rate - Alteration**

#### Before:

Ways and Means Committee

Hearing: 2/1/24 at 1:00 PM

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 700 regional businesses and job creators, **SUPPORTS House Bill HB0186 – 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 HB0186**. Please feel free to contact the Chamber directly at 410-213-0144 should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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