

Visit HAGERSTOWN & Washington County, Maryland

February 5, 2025

Senator Guy Guzzone
Budget and Taxation Committee Chair
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

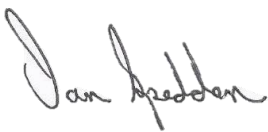
Dear Senator Guzzone,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Maryland Senate Bill 0980 sponsored by Senator Paul Corderman, which seeks to lift the cap on funding for the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA).

Maryland's rich history and diverse cultural heritage are precious assets that deserve our protection and promotion. The MHAA plays a vital role in preserving and interpreting our state's historical landmarks, fostering economic development, and enriching the tourism experience. By allowing more funding the MHAA, we ensure that future generations can appreciate and learn from the stories that shaped our communities. These heritage areas not only celebrate our past but also provide essential resources and support to local economies by attracting visitors and fostering community engagement.

Furthermore, the economic benefits of investing in heritage tourism cannot be overstated. With targeted funding, we can enhance our marketing efforts, improve visitor services, and create captivating programs that highlight the unique stories of Maryland. This, in turn, generates revenue that will benefit local businesses and create jobs in the tourism sector.

Visit Hagerstown supports Senate Bill 0980 as it lifts the cap on funding of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Your leadership in this matter demonstrates a commitment to preserving our history and strengthening our communities. Thank you for leading this important initiative, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our state.



Dan Spedden, President