CITY OF LAUREL
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor

January 29, 2025

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: SB 324 - Admissions and Amusement Tax - Food and Beverages

Position: FAVORABLE

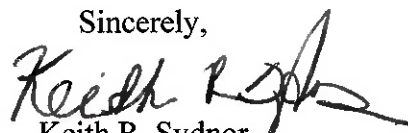Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

We are writing in support of SB 324, which would give our town a new way to generate revenue through the Admissions and Amusement tax. This is a priority bill for the Maryland Municipal League as well.

The City of Laurel collects a 5% Admissions and Amusement (A&A) tax on movie ticket sales, driving range and batting cage fees, miniature golf fees, coin operated games. This revenue helps us continue to provide quality government services to our community. However, with the increase in online streaming services, the largest portion of the current A&A Tax – Movie Theater Ticket Sales - is continuing to decline.

- Total reliance on property tax unfairly burdens the property owners where there are so many non-property owners benefiting from park amenities, infrastructure maintenance, and police, fire and EMS services while working in, visiting or passing through our cities and towns. However, there is currently no mechanism in place to benefit the host jurisdiction.

- Local governments are seeking additional revenue streams to support rising employee costs for competitive salaries and benefits, particularly health insurance; increased costs for supplies and equipment as well fluctuating energy costs for fleet and building utilities; and the City's costs for workers' compensation, property and liability insurances due to industry increases.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 324. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Sydnor
Mayor