

HEART OF THE
CIVIL WAR
HERITAGE AREA

Senator Paul D. Corderman
James Senate Office Building, Room 403
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 7, 2025

Dear Senator Corderman,

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area is grateful for your sponsorship of SB0980 (HB1327), which will allow for a greater share of property tax revenues (through the state-side of Program Open Space or POS) to be budgeted for the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA). As you know, a beautiful aspect of this bill is that it is not a request for an increase or for new money that would take from the general fund. It simply makes way for the possibility of a greater share of the restricted POS fund so that we can build upon an already impressive track record of strengthening the economy at local and state levels.

CARROLL COUNTY

Hampstead
Manchester
Mount Airy
New Windsor
Sykesville
Taneytown
Union Bridge
Westminster

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, a nonprofit serving Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties, appreciates your consistent support. You have helped our heritage area, one of 13 certified by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA), achieve impressive impact - including \$450.2 in economic contribution to our local communities, nearly 6,400 jobs supported and sustained, and \$60.3 in local and state taxes generated. The statewide figures for heritage area impact are: \$2.4 billion in economic contribution, 40,000 jobs supported and sustained, \$320 million in local and state tax revenues generated annually.

FREDERICK COUNTY

Brunswick
Burkittsville
Emmitsburg
Frederick
Middletown
Mount Airy
Myersville
New Market
Rosemont
Thurmont
Woodsboro

As a program dedicated to stimulating the economy through heritage tourism development, **our contributions to the economic well-being Maryland can only grow.** Eligibility for MHAA grants requires location in and support of the local heritage area. When funded under the current statute, **up to \$6 million** may be budgeted annually for MHAA, with \$5.1 million is available for grants. Many worthy projects remain unfunded. On average, the gap between available funds and what is needed is \$8 million annually, but some years it is much higher.

In our heritage area, 34 projects have been identified in Intent to Apply submissions for FY25. Many are from Washington County, including the following from Hagerstown that promise great ROI:

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Boonsboro
Clear Spring
Funkstown
Hagerstown
Hancock
Keedysville
Sharpsburg
Smithsburg
Williamsport

- \$100,000 request for the final phase of American Hall restoration (African American resource, strong Civil War connections, will include a visitor experience to boost heritage tourism).
- \$100,000 request the Doleman Black Heritage Museum building project.
- \$50,000 for a monumental sculpture memorial to George Washington.
- \$25,000 request from the City of Hagerstown for a Hager House visitor orientation film - in time for the 250th anniversary of Washington County and the nation.

Thank you for your steadfast support of Maryland's Heritage Areas. For the sake of all Marylanders, we hope for success with SB0980/HB1327.

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With great appreciation,

Elizabeth Scott Shatto

Elizabeth Scott Shatto
Executive Director

