



February 14, 2025  
Senator Paul Corderman  
403 James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Corderman,

On behalf of the Washington County Department of Business and Economic Development I am pleased to express our strong support for Maryland SB0980, which seeks to lift the cap on funding for the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA). As an economic development agency, we recognize the vital role that heritage tourism plays in driving economic growth, supporting small businesses, and fostering vibrant communities throughout Maryland.

The MHAA has been instrumental in preserving Maryland's unique historical and cultural assets, which serve as economic engines for our communities. By increasing funding for this essential program, we can further leverage heritage tourism as a powerful catalyst for job creation, business development, and increased visitor spending. Investing in these areas strengthens local economies by attracting tourists, enhancing infrastructure, and supporting businesses that rely on heritage-related activities.

The economic impact of lifting the funding cap cannot be overstated. Expanded resources will allow for strategic marketing initiatives, improved visitor services, and the development of engaging programs that showcase Maryland's rich history. These efforts will generate increased tourism revenue, bolster local businesses, and create sustainable employment opportunities in the region.

Washington County Department of Business and Economic Development fully supports SB0980 and appreciates your leadership in championing this initiative. This legislation will not only preserve our cultural heritage but also contribute significantly to Maryland's long-term economic prosperity. We look forward to collaborating on efforts that continue to strengthen our communities and enhance the state's position as a premier heritage tourism destination.

Thank you for your dedication to Maryland's economic and cultural future. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of further assistance in advocating for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jonathan Horowitz'.

Jonathan Horowitz

Director

Washington County Department of Business and Economic Development

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