



February 24, 2026

Re: HB 1229 / SB 886 — Written Testimony

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kelly Moler, proprietor of Beaver Creek Inn & Spa, an independently owned boutique bed-and-breakfast and wellness spa in Washington County.

Our business provides lodging, spa services, and small events, and we are currently preparing to expand with a tea room and additional wellness offerings that will require hiring new local staff in the coming months.

Many of our spa professionals are compensated through a gratuity-supported model that allows them to earn above base hourly wages while enabling us to keep services priced within reach for our rural customer base. Eliminating the tip credit would require substantial service price increases in order to maintain current staffing levels—placing these offerings out of reach for many in our community.

Additionally, automatic wage increases tied to inflation and embedded constitutionally introduce long-term labor cost uncertainty that small, service-based businesses cannot reliably forecast. This may directly impact our ability to grow, hire, and invest in Washington County.

We support fair compensation for our team members. However, we respectfully ask the Committee to consider the disproportionate impact these changes may have on rural hospitality and wellness providers working to expand sustainably in their communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly L. Moler

Kelly Moler
Proprietor
Beaver Creek Inn & Spa
Washington County, Maryland