



February 17, 2026

MD House Ways and Means Committee
Chair, Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins
131 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 690
Corporate Income Tax – Rate Reduction (Economic Competitiveness Act of 2026)**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Ocean City Hospitality Association, we respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 690, which proposes a reduction in the corporate income tax rate in Maryland. Maryland's hospitality industry plays a critical role in driving economic activity (\$21.2 billion in visitor spending), supporting 193,845 jobs (1 in every 21 jobs), and sustaining local businesses. However, rising costs, workforce challenges, and increasing competition from neighboring states continue to put pressure on our industry.

House Bill 690 offers a practical solution to strengthen Maryland's economic competitiveness. Reducing the corporate income tax rate will allow businesses to reinvest in operations, improve facilities, and enhance the guest experience. It will also help Maryland better compete with surrounding states that offer more favorable tax environments, making it easier to retain and attract businesses.

Additionally, tax relief supports job creation and workforce stability by enabling employers to invest more in hiring and retention. For an industry that depends heavily on its workforce, this is especially important. Lowering the tax burden also helps businesses remain resilient during economic uncertainty, ensuring we can continue contributing to local economies. House Bill 690 is a strategic step toward fostering a stronger, more competitive business climate in Maryland. For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan L. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan L. Jones, Executive Director