



**MARYLAND
TOURISM
COALITION**

February 20, 2026

Maryland House of Delegates
Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB1193 - Department of Natural Resources - Savage Highlands State Park - Hotel Rental Surcharge - Favorable Support

Chairman Wilkins and Members of the Committee,

My name is Matt Libber, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC). I am writing to express MTC's favorable support of House Bill 1193, Department of Natural Resources - Savage Highlands State Park - Hotel Rental Surcharge. This measure represents an important step in bolstering Maryland's tourism industry by generating dedicated revenue for tourism marketing and promotion.

The proposed hotel rental tax will provide essential funding to enhance marketing efforts that attract visitors to our state. In an increasingly competitive travel market, sustained and strategic marketing investments are critical to positioning Maryland as a premier destination for travelers from across the country and beyond. The additional resources generated through this surcharge will help promote not only Savage River Lodge but also the surrounding region, driving increased visitation and economic benefits for local businesses, attractions, and hospitality providers.

Furthermore, reinvesting hotel tax revenue into tourism promotion creates a sustainable cycle of economic growth. By attracting more visitors, we can boost local job creation, support small businesses, and generate additional tax revenue that benefits the broader community. The hospitality sector plays a pivotal role in Maryland's economy, and measures like this surcharge help ensure its continued success and competitiveness.

We appreciate your leadership in advancing policies that support tourism growth and economic development in Maryland. I urge you and your colleagues to support this legislation, which will provide long-term benefits for our state's tourism industry and local economies.



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Thank you for your time and consideration and we ask for a favorable report for House Bill 1193.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Libber
Legislative Chair
Maryland Tourism Coalition