



**LETTER OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF
BWI ARUNDEL MILLS HOSPITALITY ALLIANCE (BAMHA)**

**IN SUPPORT OF HB1176 – Income Tax Credit for Travel, Hospitality and Entertainment
Expenses**

Before the Budget and Taxation Committee, February 24, 2021

Dear Chairman & Committee Members,

My name is Ray Cajudoy, President of the BWI Arundel Mills Hospitality Alliance otherwise known as BAMHA. BAMHA is a voluntary, non-profit group of hotel and tourism professionals in the BWI Airport Arundel Mills, Maryland Regions. BAMHA's goal is to provide networking, education and outreach opportunities focused on increasing groups and meetings in this region. BAMHA works in collaboration with local Destination Marketing Organizations and State Tourism Organizations in an effort to build our region's tourism brand. On behalf of our members, I would like to express our support of HB1176.

Tourism is vital to Maryland's economy! In a typical year, tourism supports 226,000 direct and indirect jobs, making it the 11th largest industry in the state. Visitors to Maryland spend nearly \$18.6 billion in Maryland each year and those same visitors generate close to \$2.6 billion in state and local taxes. Without tourism in the state of Maryland, each household would pay \$1,175 more in local taxes.

But as we all know, this past year has been anything but typical. Our industry has been devastated by the pandemic forcing many small businesses to close temporarily and in worst cases, permanently. Many of our members are creatively coming up with ways to keep their business alive and their employees employed. We need to do whatever we can to assist the tourism industry – attractions, hotels, restaurants, breweries, retailers – as much as possible as they will be at the forefront of bringing our Maryland economy back to life. The tax credit would incentive Marylanders to explore their home state from the slopes in the western regions to the beaches of the eastern shore. Not only will travelers be stimulating the economy, but they will also be creating experiences with their friends and family and sharing that with others who will then want to join in the fun. The small business community is a close-knit family, and we should do what we can to get people into our local businesses.

On behalf of the BWI Arundel Mills Hospitality Alliance (BAMHA), we respectfully request that you support HB1176.

Sincerely,

Ray Cajudoy
President – BWI Arundel Mills Hospitality Alliance
Area Director of Sales – Aimbridge Hospitality