



W. Robert Flanigan
Mayor

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City of Frostburg

January 18, 2024

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Bill: SB 14 – Economic Development – Tourism Zones – Designation and Benefits

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The City of Frostburg supports Senate Bill 14 as the Tourism Zone designation will provide additional tools to further bolster tourism within the City. Frostburg is the western terminus of the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, is a TrailTown along the Great Allegheny Passage, and hosts various special community events during the year, including Derby Day, Cruise-In Main Street, Arts Walks, and Storybook Holiday. Collectively these attractions and events bring tens of thousands of visitors each year.

Senate Bill 14 will provide the City the autonomy to craft a Tourism Zone and incentives that encourage business expansion and new businesses in the central business district, that is beneficial to the community without being a detriment to City government revenues.

The City has a thriving downtown, and maintains many designations that support Frostburg as a tourism destination, including: FrostburgFirst, A Maryland MainStreet Community, A&E District, Sustainable Community, Enterprise Zone, etc. Despite the success of Frostburg's business district, there are always opportunities to further improve its success, including assistance rehabbing large historic structures and expanding offerings/hours for those visiting and living in the community.

The ability provide tax incentives in Frostburg specific to tourism enterprises, will complement the efforts of Allegany County Tourism and Frostburg First and drive investment in the community. This will allow the City to continue to grow as a tourism destination, which we recognize as one part of our community's ability to be a place people want to be for generations to come. One of my habits is to take a look at license plates in town – over the past few years, I have seen the number and frequency of out

of state plates grow in number. Further supporting tourism in Maryland will only increase the impact of tourism in Frostburg.

For these reasons, the City of Frostburg respectfully requests that this committee provide Senate Bill 14 with a favorable report.

Sincerely,



W. Robert Flanigan, Mayor
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