

**Western Maryland Heritage Association**  
**218 Washington Street**  
**Cumberland, Maryland 21502**

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991

Subject: Economic Development – Tourism Zones

Dear Senators:

The Western Maryland Heritage Association strongly supports SB 14 which provides for property tax credits against the county or municipal property tax imposed on certain real property and certain personal property located within a tourism zone.

Our organization consists of 17 Heritage and Tourism Attractions in Allegany County. Each of our organizations makes vital contributions to enhancing tourism in our region. A listing of our members is attached. Last year, tourism in Allegany County grew by 11 percent surpassing pre-pandemic levels and generating \$194 million in visitor spending in Allegany County. The Western Maryland Heritage Association members played a significant role in that success.

Most of our members are non-profit volunteer organizations that struggle every year to cover operating expenses. The proposed bill would provide much-needed financial support which would allow us to expend our limited resources on enhancing our services to the public.

We appreciate your continued support in empowering local tourism organizations in their quest to make Maryland a top tourist destination.

Sincerely,



Victor Rezendes  
Co-Chairman



R. David Williams  
Co-Chairman

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***Association Members:***

**Allegany Arts Council**

**Allegany County Library**

**Allegany County Historical Society**

**Allegany County Tourism**

**Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area**

**C. William Gilchrist Museum of the Arts**

**C&O Canal Museum**

**City of Cumberland**

**Cresap Museum**

**Cumberland Woman's Civil Club**

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church**

**Evergreen Heritage Museum**

**Fort Ashby Museum**

**Frostburg Museum**

**Jane Gates House**

**Western Maryland Chapter National Railway Historical Society**

**Western Maryland Scenic Railroad**