



Bill #	SB979
Position	SUPPORT

March 4, 2020

Budget & Tax Committee
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and Members of the Committee—

I write on behalf of the four associations value-added agricultural organizations we represent to urge your support of SB979.

This type of tax credit on equipment purchases would have an incredible impact on the value-added agricultural businesses, who rely on specialized equipment to craft their innovative—and, sometimes, farm-preserving—products.

The impact to small businesses is enormous, and the revenue generation to the state is exponentially greater than its investment in this program, as value-added products yield incredibly greater tax revenue than traditional farm products.

In a study recently released by Grow & Fortify, value-added agriculture was shown to contribute \$875 million annually to the state's economy.

We urge your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Atticks, DCD
*Maryland Wineries Association, Brewers Association of Maryland
Maryland Distillers Guild, Maryland Hemp Coalition*

*Cultivating an environment where value-added agricultural producers,
startups, operators and growers innovate and thrive.*