



Senate Bill 118

Land Use - Alcohol Production and Agricultural Alcohol Production

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Economic Matters Committee

Date: March 14, 2020

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 118. This bill would create a model definition of alcohol production and agricultural alcohol production for use in land use code. The bill does not require adoption of the definition by counties, but instead serves as a guide for those wishing to incorporate the language into their existing code.

This bill creates a single “alcohol production” definition that could help counties in streamlining new regulations. Several counties refer to “wineries” in their land use code but omit other production types such as distilleries. Previously, MACo has supported certain model definitions because they can be a useful resource for counties.

Counties appreciate the direction and spirit of this legislation – creating a model to serve as a best practice, rather than a top-down mandate requiring local compliance. The presence of a State-adopted model could promote uniformity across jurisdictions, but not at the expense of the local latitude to respond to specific issues or concerns locally.

SB 118 provides a model definition that could be useful for counties who wish to reform their land use code to reflect a growing industry while not requiring the language be adopted. MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 118.