

FRIENDLY FARM RESTAURANT

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 460

(BALTIMORE COUNTY – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSES – TRANSFERS)

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

My name is Chris Wilhelm and I'm a part of the third generation at Friendly Farm. Friendly Farm was started by my grandparents in 1959 and has been run by our family for over 63 years. As my sister and I look forward to the future, we see the opportunity to grow our restaurant business as we plan to undertake more accessory activities onsite in the coming years. Over the many years we have been in business, we have received many inquiries from customers asking if we serve alcohol? Or sometimes they will come in and just assume that we do serve alcohol and become very disappointed when it is not available. We have lost many groups and events because we were unable to serve alcoholic beverages. We are unable to have a liquor license based on the population formula that applies in Baltimore County. With being in the hospitality business we need to do what we can to provide for our customers if we want to stay competitive in this industry.

House Bill 460 would give us the opportunity to obtain a liquor license through a transfer from another district that is oversaturated with licenses based on its population.

As Baltimore County tries to build its tourism industry, we feel that we are 100% in line with this. We are a destination restaurant. People drive from all directions including the surrounding states to come out to a one-of-a-kind country setting and enjoy a great meal. We are ready to build on that and provide more memorable experiences while also helping Baltimore County build on increasing their tourism business. I truly believe that a liquor license will open the door to new customer opportunities for our business including local and non-local residents.

My family and I are very excited for the future of Friendly Farm. We hope to have the opportunity to keep building our business so that the next generation has the opportunity to be part of it as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.