

Board of County Commissioners
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John T. "Jack" Lyburn
Director

February 16, 2022

Dear Members of the Economic Matters and Ways & Means Committees,

The Carroll County Department of Economic Development strongly urges your support of HB854 to create a new commission and fund to support Maryland's alcohol producers.

Carroll County would be a potential beneficiary of competitive grants offered by the commission to support promotional programs designed to bring more tourism to these incredible destinations. Carroll County has enjoyed substantial growth in our breweries, wineries, and distilleries over the last few years: award-winning wineries like Old Westminster Winery (Westminster) and Serpent Ridge (Westminster), growing breweries like 1623 Brewery (Eldersburg) and Flood Zone (Union Bridge), and unique Main Street distilleries like Patapsco Distillery (Sykesville) and MISC. Distillery (Mount Airy). These exciting venues are important tourist destinations, bringing visitors and revenue dollars from throughout Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region to Carroll County.

The fund would place Maryland on par with our neighboring states who provide annual support for research, education, and promotion of the craft beverage industry. We need this to be competitive in the region.

Please vote favorably on HB854 to support this industry that represents agriculture, land preservation, tourism, tax revenue and economic development in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Lyburn, Jr." in a cursive style.

John T. Lyburn, Jr.
Director