



February 16, 2022

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

Allegany County Tourism urges your support of HB854 to create a new commission and fund to support Maryland's alcohol producers.

Our organization would be a potential beneficiary of competitive grants by the Commission to support our promotional programs designed to bring more tourism to these incredible destinations.

Breweries, wineries, and distilleries are a growing lifestyle manufacturing opportunity in Allegany County, Maryland. Over the past five years, this industry has expanded to five breweries, two wineries, and two distilleries within our county. These businesses not only generate jobs but a sense of place and community. Specific to tourism, we have seen firsthand the benefit of having such businesses in our region as it creates destination awareness and another level of experience for visitors to invest money in Allegany County.


The fund would bring Maryland on par with neighboring states who provide annual support for research, education and promotion of the craft beverage industry.

Please vote favorable on HB843 to support this industry that represents agriculture, land preservation, tourism, tax revenue and economic development in our community.

Sincerely,

Ashli Workman
Director of Tourism
Allegany County, the Mountain Side of Maryland

ALLEGANY COUNTY TOURISM, 13 CANAL STREET, CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

 (301) 777-5132

 mdmountainside.com