



February 16, 2022

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

On behalf of Visit Frederick (Tourism Council of Frederick County) we urge for 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.

In recent years the craft beverage industry, to include breweries, wineries, and distilleries, has become a major vein of tourism and visitation to Frederick County leading to substantial increases in economic impact.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Ziedelis".

Dave Ziedelis
Executive Director