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February 7, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **Senate Bill 338 as amended** –Alcoholic Beverages-Class C Fraternal or Sororal
Organization – **Letter of Support**

Dear Senator Beidle and Committee Members:

The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County wish to state their support to Senate
Bill 338 as amended – Alcoholic Beverages-Class C Fraternal or Sororal Organization.

The passage of the local bill will allow Service Club license holders in Somerset County
to purchase alcohol from local retailers. The burden of cost to these non-profit organizations is
causing much hardship; as currently they are required to buy bulk amounts from three specific
distributors/wholesalers, two of which are located across the Bay Bridge, and the other in
Salisbury; who only deliver once a week. Having to purchase in this way is a financial hardship to
their inventory expense.

The benefits that will be gained by the passage of this bill will improve cost control by
eliminating required minimum purchases, providing flexibility to buy minimum requirements such
as single bottles, split cases and last-minute purchases that are needed. In addition, the passage of
this bill will create a more competitive marketplace and reduce delivery scheduling and volunteer
requirements.

Thank you for your consideration, and we therefore powerfully recommend a **favorable
report** on SB 338 as amended.

Sincerely,



Charles Laird
President

Cc: Delegate Otto