

February 12, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
3E Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
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 Officers of American Legion Stanley Cochran Post 16 in Crisfield Maryland wish to state their strong support to Senate Bill 338 as amended – Alcoholic Beverages-Class C Fraternal or Sororal Organization.

We are a non-profit veterans organization governed by a membership elected group of volunteers and supported by our membership of Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion. The passage of this local bill will allow us, and like service club license holders, to purchase alcohol from local retailers. We are currently required to purchase all alcohol from three large distributors, two of which are located on the western shore, at a major cost disadvantage for our small and local operation. Additionally, the majority of our purchases MUST be made by-the-case, or pay a “price penalty” for a lesser order or split case. Requiring purchases in this manner is a major financial hardship and requires excessive inventory expense. By comparison, we also buy food product and soft goods from two large food distributors, SYSCO and Holt Foods. Yet, we can also buy from our local Food Lion store, seafood distributors and farmer’s markets without restriction. This allows us the needed ability to competitively purchase and also purchase in small quantities and last minute items when needed. Why should there be such a required disadvantage and penalty in our purchase of alcohol??

The benefits to be gained by the passage of this bill will significantly help to improve our cost control and cash flow, both of which are critically important to us and to our ability to survive and operate in this economic environment.

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

Sincerely,
Donald Waters
Commander