



**CALVERT COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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*Board of Commissioners*  
Mark C. Cox Sr.  
Catherine M. Grasso  
Earl F. Hance  
Mike Hart  
Todd Ireland

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Delegate C. T. Wilson, Chair  
Economic Matters Committee  
230 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB544/HB559 – Food Establishments - Portable Chemical Toilets

Chair Beidle, Chair Wilson, and Committee Members:


The Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County writes in strong **SUPPORT** of **SB544** and **HB559** and requests **FAVORABLE** Committee reports. This legislation proposes authorizing certain food establishments, including agritourism businesses, Class 4 limited wineries, and Class 8 farm breweries, to comply with the requirement of providing a convenient lavatory by offering a portable chemical toilet that meets specified sanitary and ventilation standards.

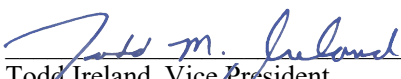
As a rural county with a rich agricultural heritage, we have witnessed the significant contributions that agritourism, local wineries, and farm breweries make to our State's economy and cultural heritage. These establishments not only promote local agriculture but also attract tourism, support small businesses, and foster community engagement. Senate Bill 544 and House Bill 559 offer a practical solution for these businesses operating in rural and agricultural settings where permanent restroom facilities may not be feasible. By allowing the use of portable chemical toilets that adhere to health and safety standards, these Bills ensure that these establishments can continue to operate effectively while maintaining necessary sanitary conditions for both employees and patrons.

Furthermore, this measure supports the growth and sustainability of Maryland's agritourism sector by reducing potential financial and logistical burdens associated with constructing permanent facilities. It strikes a balance between upholding public health standards and recognizing the unique operational challenges faced by these businesses. We commend the sponsors' initiative in presenting this legislation, and urge the Maryland General Assembly to pass Senate Bill 544 and House Bill 559.

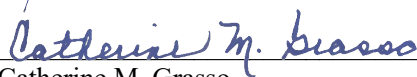
Your thoughtful consideration of this legislation is sincerely appreciated. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, extension 2202, or County Attorney John Norris at 410-535-1600, extension 2566. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important local Bill. You for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important local Bill.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

  
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cc: Calvert County Senators and Delegation

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Mike Hart