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February 18, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

REF: **Letter of Support for SB 897 with Amendment** – Cecil County–Alcoholic Beverages–Alteration of License Quota

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Cecil County Government, we write to express our **support with amendment** Senate Bill 897. The bill provides a focused and practical update to Cecil County’s alcoholic beverage licensing framework by modifying how the quota for Class A licenses is calculated. As amended, the bill adjusts the ratio to one Class A license for every 2,000 registered voters and clarifies that the quota applies only to Class A licenses, rather than aggregating multiple license classes into a single calculation. The amendment further ensures that the Board of License Commissioners may issue not fewer than two Class A licenses in each election district, preserving equitable access and flexibility across the county.

This legislation represents a measured modernization of an existing statutory framework. By narrowing the quota calculation to Class A licenses and establishing a clear minimum license threshold per district, the bill improves clarity and administrative consistency for the Cecil County Board of License Commissioners. The updated ratio better reflects present-day voter registration levels and community growth while maintaining a structured and predictable licensing system.

From an economic perspective, a clear and predictable licensing framework supports local commerce and long-term business planning. Retail establishments operating under Class A licenses contribute to the county’s economic activity and tax base. Senate Bill 897, as amended, refines the quota methodology to support orderly economic development while maintaining appropriate regulatory safeguards.

For these reasons, **favorable** consideration of Senate Bill 897, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Streight".

Adam Streight
County Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al Miller".

Al Miller
Council President