



The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 3, 2026

Re: Support House Bill 410- Public Health – Food and Milk Product Labeling - Requirements

Dear Chair Bagnall and Members of the Health Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to share our support on House Bill 410 and ask that your committees issue a favorable report.

The MD-DE-DC Beverage Association is the trade association representing the local soft drink industry. Our members have a strong presence across Maryland. As an industry, we endeavor to provide high quality products on the shelf for our customers and we think House Bill 410 advances those efforts.

House Bill 410 establishes standardized requirements for labeling food and Grade A milk products, mandating the use of clear phrases such as “Best if Used By” for quality-related dates and “Use By” for safety-related dates. It prohibits the use of “Sell By” dates on products manufactured on or after October 1, 2026, to reduce consumer confusion. The bill also directs the Maryland Department of Health to develop a marketing program and educational materials explaining these date labels and to make this information available on its website by July 1, 2027.

Helping consumers understand what date labels really mean can go a long way toward building trust in beverage products. House Bill 410 requires the state to explain the difference between “quality dates” and “safety dates,” and clear, consistent public education like this can reduce confusion. When people know that many beverages remain safe to drink past the quality date, they feel more confident in their choices and develop a more positive view of the industry overall.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tiffany Harvey

Executive Director, MD-DE-DC Beverage Association