



**MARYLAND
TOURISM
COALITION**

**LETTER OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF
MARYLAND TOURISM COALITION**

IN SUPPORT OF HB 1046 Alcoholic Beverages – Class MD License

Before the House Economic Matters February 17, 2020

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Ruth Toomey, Executive Director of Maryland Tourism Coalition, a 50-year old organization that represents the various services, attractions, organizations and accommodations that make up the State's Industry. On behalf of our 1,000+ members, I would like to express our support of HB0019.

Tourism is important to Maryland's economy! It creates 150,000 (and growing) jobs. It is the 10th largest industry in the state. Visitors to Maryland spend nearly \$18.1 billion in Maryland each year. Visitors generate close to \$2.5 billion in state and local taxes. Without tourism in the state of Maryland, each household would pay \$1,140 more in local taxes.

Maryland's Craft Beverage industry has grown leaps and bounds since 2013. By having one liquor license that authorizes the holder to sell beer, wine, liquor manufactured in Maryland, will only further increase the revenue of these products made in Maryland. By passing this bill, it will open the opportunity for more collaborations between local wineries, breweries and distilleries. It will also help the revenue at each establishment as I have from one of my brewery members saying "I wish we could sell more than beer. Not everyone coming here likes beer". I myself am an avid craft beer drinker. But my friends are not. Should this bill pass, more of my friends would be more likely to join me as I visit breweries across the state.

On behalf of the Maryland Tourism Coalition, we respectfully request that you support HB0019.

Sincerely,

Ruth Toomey

Ruth Toomey
MTC Executive Director