

Chairman Dereck E. Davis
231 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 17, 2020

Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee,

Thank you for hearing from the small businesses of Wicomico.

My Name is Alexander Scott, I am from Salisbury Maryland, A Wicomico resident my entire life and for the last 4 years a small business owner. It has been during this time I have realized why our county businesses struggle; antiquated liquor laws combined with poor direction from county officials have been stifling businesses there for generations reminiscent of the days of prohibition.

This past weekend, I collected signatures from many of my fellow license holders that are eager for change, with even more waiting to sign as soon as possible. HB1319 at the very least, we believe will I stand here now in front of all our representatives to assure you that we ARE united. And we, along with our families, our business partners, and our customers – your constituents are paying close attention to these issues.

I have sat through countless stories of how this county's obstructive oversight has affected and hurt the welfare of so many of its citizens, as well as charity groups and fundraisers who struggled for appropriate governance. Many groups have come forward in support of change, although there are many with fears of retaliation if this does not pass.

I myself conducted an interview for our local news station and that very day an inspector was sent for a compliance check to review all of invoices and to make sure that every bottle of liquor had the county dispensary sticker on them.

As someone with heavily invested interest in my community, I was obviously thrilled to hear that our small city would get a chance to host a National event, boosting our economy and improving the overall state of pride we all share in our home. If you know that I am speaking about the National Folk Festival, then you also know about the petty actions taken to sabotage it as well. Whether this was partisan politics as usual, the business community does not care; we simply want what is best for the area at large.

This is not about choosing sides; this is about working with an effective government that can be responsible while doing what is best for its people. The city has proven many times over the last few years that it wants to make our home great, that it is here to work FOR us, and not the other way around.

Respectfully,

Alex Scott
Owner
The Brick Room