



SUPPORT SB118

March 14, 2020

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair & Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

We wish to thank the Maryland Department of Agriculture for submitting this legislation to support the growing alcohol producer industry.

This legislation would solve a major issue our industry encounters when they first approach their county to start their business. Many jurisdictions do not have definitions for “alcohol producer” or “farm alcohol producer,” meaning that county planning and permitting staff may not know how to regulate a winery, brewery or distillery.

Language was passed two years ago to create an “agritourism” definition in land use code. It provided incredible relief for farms by providing counties with a model (not mandated) definition upon which they could base their zoning text amendments.

This definition does the same, but for alcohol producers.

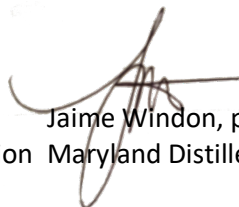
It’s important to note that this legislation does not affect any component of the Alcohol Article, but will refer to it in the Land Use Article.

We request your support for this legislation.

Sincerely,



Judy Crow, president
Maryland Wineries Association



Jaime Windon, president
Maryland Distillers Guild



Sarah Healey, president
Brewers Association of Maryland