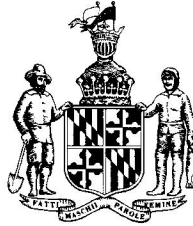


JULIAN IVEY
Legislative District 47A
Prince George's County

Ways and Means Committee

Vice Chair

Prince George's County House Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Good afternoon, Madame Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

This is about allowing for the only group that has any diversity at all to have access to this industry, which continues to be an emerging industry in Maryland. This will have a positive impact on female ownership and African American ownership. We're talking about an additional three African American owners.

Let me also say this: I am well aware that there is no shortage of ideas about how we can solve the problems with the rollout of this industry, but what we have here with HB1317 is a bill that is measured, sensible, and practical. It is truly a reflection of substantive and transparent dialogue with stakeholders that have a genuine interest in really honing in and fixing the current issues with the industry in Maryland. As we worked on this, our focus was on striking a good balance — this bill effectively says we can have quality *and* inclusion. Quality and inclusion. It's not either or.

With that, I simply urge a favorable report on HB1317. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Ivey".

Delegate Julian Ivey