



9103 Woodmore Center Drive, Suite 255, Lanham, MD 20706

March 5, 2021

Hon. Erek Barron, Chairman  
Prince George's County House Delegation  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen St, Annapolis MD 21401

**RE: HOUSE BILL 625 – FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Barron and Members of the Prince George's County House Delegation:

Thank you for your consideration of HB 625 –Alcoholic Beverages – Alcohol Density Zones and Licenses PG 307-21. My name is Dr. Mario Minor, a proud Prince George's County native, and I serve as the CEO of Market Fresh Gourmet, a minority owned, small business seeking to break long-standing barriers in food deserts by bringing fresh affordable healthy foods to underserved communities. We as a small business, FULL-SERVICE grocery store is seeking to offer shoppers a unique experience by offering the opportunity to pair beer and wine as a complete dining experience. Our desire is to sell beer and wine and not to sell hard liquor "spirits".

We are currently in the process of constructing a full-service, 20,000 square foot, community grocery store in the heart of Prince George's County, located in the Hampton Park neighborhood. Residents in this neighborhood have been living for years in a food desert that is so dire that residents have developed chronic illnesses as a result. While there are a plethora of corner stores and fast food restaurants, until now, there has been no full grocery store with fresh produce in this area.

Our project cost exceeds more than \$4,000,000 for the Hampton Park redevelopment project that will bring fresh and durable produce to this neighborhood and also spur economic development in the form of family supporting jobs. As was previously stated, we would like the opportunity to inform our customers, from a culinary experience, how to pair beer and wine with meats and seafood in order to form a complete shopping experience. Allowing Market Fresh Gourmet, and similar grocers like us to have access to alcohol sales licenses, will greatly enhance our ability to increase profitability, which will lead to additional jobs and perhaps an ability to expand our footprint further in the County; where other grocers will not go.

Thank you for your continued support of this important legislation, that is a priority bill for Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks that will give her one additional, yet critical tool for her proverbial "economic development toolbox" that is designed to address an issue that has plagued the County for decades. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote in **FAVOR** of House Bill 625. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mario Minor