



March 3, 2021

My name is Joseph Masher, and I am the COO of Bow Tie Cinemas. We operate two movie theater locations in Anne Arundel County – at the Westfield Annapolis Mall and the other at the Annapolis Harbour Center.

At our Westfield Mall location in Annapolis, we applied for and were granted the privilege of an Alcoholic Beverage License (“Class H”) by the Anne Arundel County Liquor Board with a unanimous vote. We have held this license since 2019 and are in the process of renewal for 2021.

We have operated very safely in accordance with the law and have had zero incidents and no complaints to the Liquor Board. Our guests view alcohol service as an amenity, and people do not come to a movie theater to ‘drink’. All our managers hold Alcohol Awareness Certificates as promulgated by Article 2B, subsection 4-505 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

For most of 2020 and part of this year, our theater remained closed due to the pandemic. We are operating at reduced capacity and are barely hanging on.

I recently became aware of HB0679, a bill concerning the creation of an “MT” license for alcoholic beverage service in movie theaters. It passed the house before we were able to submit testimony or apply to speak as a witness.

I am writing to ask that we, as currently operating under all terms and conditions of a “Class H” license, not be forced to change the class of our license to the “MT” license, if the Senate passes it. The financial impact on our already severely damaged business would be insurmountable. In 2018-2019, we spent over \$4 million on renovations at that theater, and our guests have grown accustomed to the amenities we provide.

In short, I am not opposed to the creation of a specific movie theater license, as long as we can still retain our “Class H” License.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Masher