



March 8, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: In Opposition to SB0793 Alcoholic Beverage Tax - Ready-to-Drink Cocktails

Dear Chairman Guzzone,

I am submitting this written testimony to share my opposition to SB0793. This legislation will give a massive tax cut to the world's largest multinational alcohol corporations. These same companies are coming out of the 2-year COVID pandemic posting record profits. Meanwhile, many of Maryland's small beverage alcohol businesses are coming out of the 2-year COVID pandemic facing double digit revenue losses. This tax cut for the thriving corporate behemoths will give them another unfair advantage towards preventing Maryland's small beverage alcohol producers from gaining market share. If this bill were nuanced and focused on reducing taxes for only the smallest distilleries in Maryland, I would be submitting testimony in full support of this bill. Because of how broad the current language is - I cannot support it. I do not think it makes sense, nor is it fair to give a tax break to corporations who have succeeded far beyond expectations in the face of a global pandemic while the smallest businesses have suffered immensely. It is not only bad policy, but also bad politics. Please support Maryland's small businesses and vote against this bill.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our state.

Julie C. Verratti  
Founder, Denizens Brewing Co.