



Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
231 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 31, 2022

RE: Senate Bill 499 – Anne Arundel County – Alcoholic Beverages – Board of License Commissioners Term Limits and Commercial Bingo License – FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

Arundel Amusements, Inc. dba Bingo World has been the owner and operator of a commercial bingo hall in Anne Arundel County since 1987. Senate Bill 499 creates an alcohol license category for commercial bingo halls as it previously existed in Anne Arundel County many years prior.

Since the 1950's there has been commercial bingo played at this location. In the 1970s, Arundel Arena held a license to serve alcohol at the bingo hall. During the 1980s, Anne Arundel County passed a law prohibiting alcoholic beverages from being served on the premises where commercial bingo games are conducted. In addition, the bingo hall closed down for several years for remodeling based on new management and ownership until Bingo World was opened. In 2021, we were fortunate to be offered the opportunity to apply for a sports wagering license. We applied for and were recently awarded a Class B sports wagering facility license. In anticipation of such we have undergone a complete renovation of our facility, spending in excess of \$1 million dollars thus far. In order to better serve our patrons, and to provide them with a full entertainment experience, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to offer alcoholic beverages, particularly because our competitors in this space are currently permitted to serve alcohol at their facilities.

In November 2021, the Anne Arundel County Council passed and the County Executive signed Bill 87-21 that repealed this prohibition. Unfortunately, after extensive research by the Board of License Commissioners, we were told that the original license category could not be revived and a new category of license would need to be created by the State.

As such, we respectfully ask for your **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 499 so that we may continue to grow and serve our customers in the best way possible, and we appreciate your consideration of this critical matter.

Thank you,
Randy Clemens
Owner, Bingo World