



**MARYLAND STATE
LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION**

150 E Main Street, Suite 104, Westminster, MD 21157

TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Washington County Delegation

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 21, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 311 – *Washington County – Alcoholic Beverages – Licenses – Class 3 Winery*

The Maryland State Licensed Beverage Association (MSLBA), which consists of approximately 1,000 Maryland businesses holding alcoholic beverage licenses (restaurants, bars, taverns, and package stores), **opposes** House Bill 311.

This legislation would allow the issuance of a Class D retail license to a Class 3 winery. This would be the first time under the Alcoholic Beverage law that this would occur, a precedent that we do not think should be set.

In addition, this is an effort to steer around another problem. Several years ago, the winery industry implemented a requirement that Class 4 wineries grow 50% or more of their own grapes by May 1, 2022. Some cannot meet that deadline. House Bill 311 attempts to save at least one winery from the deadline by allowing it to convert to a Class 3 winery but keeping all of its existing retail privileges. **Rather than reconstructing well-established law, we believe the better solution is found in House Bill 924, which simply extends the May 1, 2022, deadline by 2 years.**

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to oppose House Bill 311.

For more information call:

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