

KATIE FRY HESTER
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Carroll and Howard Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair, Joint Committee on
Cybersecurity, Information Technology
and Biotechnology



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB476 - Alcoholic Beverages - Manufacturer's Licenses and Off-Site Permits- Sunset Extension

March 4th, 2022

Chairman Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 476, which will extend the sunset dates for various provisions related to licensing and off-site permits by one more year.

As testimony from last year stated: these changes allow greater flexibility for manufacturers in selling and delivering their product directly to consumers, and create new off-site and brewery special event permits. Manufacturers have depended on these changes during the pandemic to keep their doors open, and as the Delta and Omicron waves of COVID-19 have shown, this pandemic may still impact businesses profoundly into 2023. As a demonstration of continued support, these provisions should be extended beyond the 2023 legislative session to ensure that they do not expire without this body's explicit approval, which also brings our timeframe in line with that for restaurant delivery.

Local alcohol manufacturers are an important part of the Maryland economy and culture. As the advocates with us today will attest to, these changes have been essential in helping manufacturers stay in business throughout the pandemic, and with the pandemic still affecting all aspects of life, the sunset date should be extended. For these reasons, **I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 476.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Fry Hester".

Senator Katie Fry Hester
Carroll and Howard Counties