



March 4, 2022

Senator Paul Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 603 - Constitutional Amendment- Beer and Wine Licenses- Retail Grocery Establishments- FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shelby Kemp. I am a Marketing Project Manager for Royal Farms Convenience Stores. Royal Farms main business includes convenience, fuel, and quick service restaurants. We are a third- generation family-owned business, headquartered in Baltimore city. We operate 161 stores in Maryland, employing over 3,000 employees.

We strongly support having the ability to purchase a license to sell beer and wine in our stores. At Royal Farms, we strive to cater to our customers and provide them with what they want. Data points to the fact that customers want the ability to purchase beer and wine at their local convenience or grocery store. Recent public opinion polls continue to demonstrate that consumers strongly support the ability to purchase beer and wine in convenience stores. Maryland is one out of three states that does not allow the purchase of beer and wine at convenience or grocery stores.

Royal Farms strongly support allowing Maryland citizens to decide this important question. Public opinion polls consistently indicate support for this measure.

In conclusion, allowing convenience stores and grocery stores to apply for a license to sell beer and wine will benefit consumers, our economy, and our state. Please vote in favor of SB 603.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelby Kemp".

Shelby Kemp
Marketing Project Manager
skemp@royalfarms.com