

From:

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RE HB 673. IN FAVOR

In my view, the Maryland wine and agricultural businesses continue to face intense competition, not just from Maryland based wineries and agriculture, but spanning other states - including California and Washington - International wineries and Virginia.

Having the ability to use my property as an event space will be an important factor in its future viability to remain as an agricultural property. Having this bill giving explicit permission will be a boon for all of us.

I would ask Maryland to focus on reducing regulation and empowering Maryland wineries through economic credits and investment funds to position our companies to not only be successful in competing against other state wineries, but to create a flywheel effect for Maryland and its commerce. As Maryland wineries and agriculture grow, more jobs will be created. More economic activities will occur with its vendors and partners. Increased jobs will then allow people to spend more and increase Maryland quality of life. Additionally, this increase in activity will create more sales receipts, increase sales tax income, increased payroll taxes for the State of Maryland to further its mission and make Maryland the best state in the USA and continue the positive economic momentum.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this, and I look forward to my business to continuing to add to the success of Maryland.