



Support BB 0486

February 15, 2022

The Greener Kitchen
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Testimony for SB 0486

Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Gender Inclusive Signage (The Open to All Act)

Thank you to the Senate committee for hearing SB 0486 the Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Gender Inclusive Signage (The Open to All Act) today. The Greener Kitchen prioritizes having gender inclusive restrooms in our space because we believe in making our restaurant open to all. Ensuring that everyone feels comfortable when entering the restroom, whether for themselves, or as a caretaker for another person, is a core component of the overarching mission of our business. Creating a welcoming space for all by incorporating gender inclusive signage has only been a benefit to us as a business. Our business is located at 803 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230, and we were excited to see Baltimore City Council pass 19-0385 in 2019, on which SB 0486 was based. Codifying equity is the right thing to do, and as a business, we know it will make Maryland a safer and more welcoming place for our residents, as well as for tourists.

We have seen firsthand how eliminating barriers to restroom access by making our restroom gender inclusive has had an incredibly positive effect. Our customers know they can come to our business and receive respect and dignity, and they have let us know how powerful that is in their daily lives. Some of our transgender customers seek us out because they know that they will receive basic courtesies that are absent in other places of public accommodation, and that they won't have to be under scrutiny for what bathroom they enter. Hearing those stories lets us know how impactful such legislation can be in the everyday lives of Marylanders. We're proud to run such a business, and to be pushing for positive growth on many fronts.

This legislation is good for business, good for Marylanders, and is a simple way to update our laws so we can compete on a national level. Maryland will join Washington D.C. Nevada, Illinois, and Vermont on the national level, as well as Baltimore City, the City of Salisbury, and Howard County locally in enacting this legislation, and our business avidly supports this legislation.

Please vote in support of SB 0486 the Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Gender Inclusive Signage (The Open to All Act).