

**JAZZ LEWIS**  
*Legislative District 24*  
Prince George's County

MAJORITY WHIP

Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 151  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3691 · 301-858-3691  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3691  
Fax 410-841-3055 · 301-858-3055  
Jazz.Lewis@house.state.md.us

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Oral Testimony of Delegate Jazz Lewis**  
**HB436– Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Development District**  
**License PG 305-23**  
**Before the Economic Matters Committee**

Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB436/PG305-23 to help establish a Development District around Prince George's BlueLine Corridor, allowing restaurants to get licenses to sell beer and wine. This would ensure that those restaurants who decide to locate in the area will be able to set up business without having to wonder if they will be able to sell beer and wine to their patrons, a critical part of their business.

Last year, we authorized a bond initiative for \$400 million to invest in this historically disadvantaged community. By developing, investing, and attracting new businesses we are set to uplift the communities along the BlueLine Corridor and this bill will help move us closer to that goal. We want to ensure that restaurants who choose to open in these areas are assured of their ability to sell beer and wine. Right now, restaurants have to open, not knowing whether or not that they can get these licenses and this dissuades many businesses from locating in the area.

This bill seeks to add some certainty for those that open their doors in this area outlined in HB436I and to help promote the development that is planned for this area. Alongside the historic investment that the state has done for the area, this will be another added measure to ensure that the BlueLine Corridor sees the kind of opportunity and development it has historically been left out of but we

**For these reasons, I urge a favorable vote on HB332**