

John F. Barr, *President*
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Derek Harvey
Wayne K. Keefer
Randall E. Wagner

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND**

February 3, 2023

Senator Melony Griffith, Chair
Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill 431; Alcoholic Beverages-Class 9 Limited Distillery License-Self
Distribution: SUPPORT

Dear Senator Griffith:

By a vote of 5-0, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County unanimously supports Senate Bill 431. The purpose of SB 431 is to authorize a holder of a Class 9 limited distillery license to sell and deliver alcoholic beverages manufactured under the license, in bulk, to persons within and outside the State of Maryland authorized to acquire them. SB 431 further repeals the prohibition against a holder of a Class 9 limited distillery license apply for or possessing a wholesaler's license.

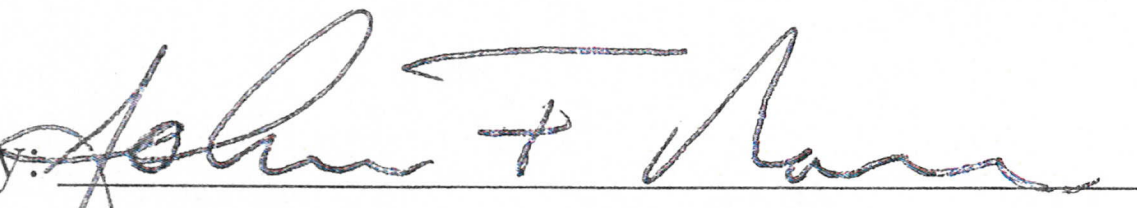
Under the current law, a holder of a Class 9 limited distillery license must sell their product to a licensed wholesaler who then sells the product to the retailers. In the case of a Class 9 licensee in Washington County, this results in the product being transported to Baltimore City to the wholesaler, and then transported back out to Washington County for purchase by the retailer. The proposed changes to the Class 9 Limited Distillery License allow the Class 9 licensee to sell directly to a licensed retailer. The provisions of SB 431 would alleviate the additional costs and environmental impact associated with the duplicative and unnecessary transportation of the licensee's product. SB 431 creates benefits to both the licensee and the environment and infrastructure within the State of Maryland.

For these reasons, the Board of County Commissioners urges the Committee to approve SB 431.

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Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: 
John F. Barr, President

cc (via email): Senator Paul D. Corderman
Senator Mike McKay