



**SOUTHERN GLAZER'S WINE AND SPIRITS**

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**Maryland Economic Matters Committee**

**Testimony in opposition of House Bill 443:** Authorizing the holder of a Class C (veterans' organization or club) license in Somerset County to purchase alcoholic beverages from a retail dealer.

**Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair and Members:**

Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits of Maryland is a local wholesaler, and we are opposed to HB 443.

The state's beverage alcohol business is built around the three-tier structure that protects consumers from fraud and counterfeit products while ensuring an orderly marketplace.

The three-tier structure also permits efficient tax collection through the wholesale tier.

HB 443 would allow Fraternal Clubs in Somerset County to bypass the state's licensed wholesalers and would permit these clubs to purchase directly from retailers. This bill would undermine current market and regulatory practices across the entire state of Maryland.

As a licensed wholesaler in Maryland, we provide sales and service to all classes of licensees in the state of Maryland. We are happy to work with all licensees and if the Class C license holders in Somerset County need assistance in placing orders or should they have questions, we are happy to work with them to facilitate the ordering process for these licensees.

Thank you for your time and I respectfully request an unfavorable report on HB 443.

Thank you,

Randy Barnhart  
Vice President Government Relations  
Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits