



**MARYLAND
TOURISM
COALITION**

February 22, 2024

Maryland Senate
Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support of SB 853 - Washington County - Alcoholic Beverages - Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility
Beer, Wine, and Liquor License

Chairperson Beidle and Members of the Committee,

My name is Matt Libber, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC). I am writing to you today to express MTC's support for Senate Bill 853. The Maryland Tourism Coalition is a trade organization with members representing all areas of tourism in the State of Maryland. Our mission is to support businesses and organizations that cater to the tourism industry through education, networking, and advocacy. As such, MTC asks the committee to vote in favor of this bill.

This bill will provide an update and modernize the alcohol licenses offered at the new Multi-use Sports and Events Facility being built in Hagerstown Maryland to include liquor beverages. This update will allow the facility to provide new offerings that are popular with consumers at this time. This change in alcohol licensing options allows the facility to be more competitive with other stadiums and attractions in the region and draw more spectators to the area. The increase in spectators will have a positive effect on tourism spending in the County and State which supports 187,000 jobs across the State and contributes to the more than \$2.3 billion in tax revenue collected by the industry. Modernization of our alcohol licensing system is essential to remain competitive within the tourism industry with other states and jurisdictions.

For these reasons, the Maryland Tourism Coalition asks this committee to vote in favor of this legislation and forward it for a full vote within the Senate of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Libber
Legislative Chair
Maryland Tourism Coalition
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