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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SB 1001
Alcoholic Beverages – Class 4 Limited Winery License
Requirements and Authorizations

Good afternoon, Vice Chair Klausmeier and Members of the Finance Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 1001, Alcoholic Beverages – Class 4 Limited Winery License – Requirements and Authorizations.

This legislation consists of simple technical changes that will enable our wineries to be more innovative, flexible and have an ability to utilize the best grapes, bulk wine and other Maryland agricultural products to make their wine.

SB 1001 makes two simple technical changes:

- This legislation broadens what Maryland grown agricultural products can count toward Maryland wineries ingredient requirement. For example, Maryland made honey could now be turned into honey wine and count as part of their Maryland production.
- This legislation as amended raises the percentage of bulk wine that Maryland wineries can sell or buy from other Maryland wineries to 75% from 25%. This change enables Maryland wineries or vineyards that have a really good crop to sell more to other Maryland wineries. Similarly, it enables Maryland wineries who may experience a poor crop, from flooding, or spotted lantern flies or other threats to buy more Maryland bulk wine to comply with their Maryland made requirements.

Last, as amended, this legislation clarifies that cannabis and “thc” cannot be utilized as a Maryland grown agricultural product.

I respectfully ask for a “Favorable Report” on SB 1001.