

## HB1379 - Alcoholic Beverages Modernization Act of 2025 - SUPPORT

Honorable Members of the Economic Matters Committee - Maryland House of Delegates

Chair Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

As the owner of Market Fresh Gourmet Inc., an independent grocery store; whose mission is to alleviate food insecurity in our local underserved communities - I am writing to express my strong support for HB1379 the Alcoholic Beverages Modernization Act of 2025. We have been committed to making a major impact on health and food access that is fresh and affordable in Baltimore and Prince George's County, MD.

I believe this legislation is an important step toward modernizing Maryland's alcoholic beverage laws. Allowing small businesses like ours to obtain a Class A license will not only help us better serve our customers but will also support the growth and sustainability of local businesses. Grocery stores are expanding concepts to meet the consumers demand and promote sustainability.

The ability to offer a diverse selection of alcoholic beverages, such as wine and craft beer, alongside our grocery offerings, would provide greater convenience to our customers, improve sales, and enable us as a small business to remain competitive with retail chains. It is a conduit and not an overall driver. Most grocery stores operate on a 2%-3.5% profit margin - so we are not supporting this bill proposal to meet the jackpot. Moreover, the passage of this bill aligns with the interests of Maryland consumers, who increasingly value the opportunity to shop locally for a wide range of products.

I also appreciate the focus on responsible alcohol sales, including training and regulatory measures outlined in the Act. These safeguards will ensure that the sale of alcoholic beverages is conducted safely and responsibly, while still offering the benefits to small businesses.

I respectfully urge the committee's support for the Alcoholic Beverages Modernization Act of 2025, which will provide small independent grocery stores with the opportunity to thrive while contributing to the broader economic vitality and equitable access throughout the State of Maryland.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mario Minor  
CEO & Chairman