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**Position Statement in Support of Senate Bill 542
Study on Minority Participation in the Alcoholic Beverages Industry
Submitted by Carrington & Associates, LLC**

Carrington & Associates, LLC strongly supports Senate Bill 542, which calls for a comprehensive study to examine the structure and composition of the distribution and retail sectors of Maryland's alcoholic beverages industry. This legislation is a crucial step toward identifying and eliminating systemic barriers that hinder minority participation in this sector.

Historically, minority-owned businesses have faced significant challenges in accessing opportunities within regulated industries, including alcoholic beverage distribution and retail. By commissioning an independent third-party study, SB542 will provide a data-driven analysis of existing disparities and offer recommendations to ensure equitable access to economic opportunities for small, minority, and women-owned businesses.

A more inclusive industry benefits not only minority entrepreneurs but also Maryland's economy as a whole. Ensuring fair representation in the alcoholic beverages sector fosters competition, innovation, and local economic growth. The findings and recommendations from this study will be instrumental in shaping policies that create a level playing field for all businesses, regardless of size or ownership background.

Carrington & Associates, LLC urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass SB542 and demonstrate a firm commitment to equity and economic inclusion. We stand ready to support this initiative and collaborate with policymakers, industry stakeholders, and community leaders to ensure meaningful and lasting change.

**Respectfully submitted,
Carrington & Associates, LLC**