

# **LIBCO HB1243 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Andrew Dill

Position: FAV

## **Testimony in Support of HB 1243**

Andrew Dill, Co-Founder

Liquid Intrusion Brewing Company (LIBCO)

Thank you Chair Guzzone and Vice Chair Rosapepe. My name is Andrew Dill, and I am the co-founder of Liquid Intrusion Brewing Company, Prince George's County's first Black-owned brewery.

We operate as a contract brewery, meaning we rent space out of another brewery to produce our beer and get our product to market entirely through distribution across Maryland, Washington DC, and Delaware. We have no brick and mortar to call home. For over three years, we have been diligently searching for a permanent location right here in Prince George's County, because this is where we belong.

Black-owned breweries represent less than one percent of the brewing industry nationally. For Prince George's County to have one is significant. For Prince George's County to lose one because the tax environment made survival impossible would be a failure this community cannot afford.

Breweries like Denizens Brewing Company, a woman-owned brewery, and Streetcar 82, one of only two deaf-owned and operated breweries in the entire country, are mentors to us. The challenges they face will inevitably affect us too. Our county is home to some truly unique breweries and countless other small businesses and manufacturers that deserve your support.

HB 1243 gives small manufacturers like us a real chance to survive and grow here. Without it, we will be forced to look elsewhere, or for some, possibly close. With it, we stay, we hire, and we build something this county can be proud of.

Please vote yes on HB 1243. Thank you.

**Two Lions Vyd HB1243 Letter 033026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Callena Hankey

Position: FAV

March 30, 2026

Testimony in support of HB 1243  
Callie Hankey, Owner, Two Lions Vineyards

Good Afternoon:

My name is Callie Hankey, and I co-own Two Lions Vineyards in Upper Marlboro. We planted our first 2,300 vines in 2019 and opened our winery in June 2022. We are proud to employ 36 staff at our winery.

I would like to thank Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark and Delegate Williams for their support of this bill. Thank you to the entire Prince George's County Delegation for sponsoring this bill and understanding the importance of this issue to the craft beverage producers in our county. Prince George's County is currently the home to 7 wineries, 5 breweries and 3 distilleries.

I write in support of HB 1243 because the tax rates on small manufacturing businesses are anticompetitive and disincentivize business growth at a time when the county needs to support businesses and the entire state faces a massive budget deficit. Anything we can do to encourage and promote small manufacturing growth should be made permanent; the existing tax rates currently hinder businesses like ours from being able to reinvest and grow.

Maryland ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the country for its overall State Business Tax Climate and has the dubious honor of being the 3<sup>rd</sup> most costly state in which to do business. Our state's high tax rates erode competitiveness, drive businesses away and harm communities that depend on businesses like ours for jobs and local investment. Businesses fuel our economy and support our communities through innovation, job creation and funding local initiatives. To ensure our success we need to reduce burdens and foster policies that enable and encourage growth.

I asked the committee to please vote in favor of HB 1243 to help small craft alcohol manufacturers succeed and thrive in Prince George's County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Callie Hankey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Callie Hankey

# **HB-1243 Favorable Testimony Julie Verratti.pdf**

Uploaded by: Julie Verratti

Position: FAV

# **Testimony in support of HB 1243 by Julie Verratti**

Thank you Chair Guzzone and Vice Chair Rosapepe. Thank you to the Prince George's County Delegation, especially Chair Williams, for sponsoring the bill.

My name is Julie Verratti and I am one of the Founders of Denizens Brewing Company in Riverdale Park. We are a small, woman and family owned and operated manufacturing company, and have been in business for 12 years. We currently employ about 25 people on our team.

I strongly support this bill, which will allow small manufacturing businesses like ours to have much needed financial relief from business personal property taxes against manufacturing equipment and inventory at the municipal level. In 2025, the county base was about \$60,000, while the town base was about \$625,000. That is a difference of more than \$10,000 in an annual tax, where the town is charging 5x what the county is charging. By exempting manufacturing equipment and inventory from the town's calculation (the county already does this), we will receive a

much more equitable and reasonable business personal property tax bill each year.

Since 2019 the town has charged us about \$100,000 in business personal property taxes, and during that same time period, the county has charged us about \$22,000. In neighboring jurisdictions, small manufacturers aren't charged any taxes for their manufacturing equipment or inventory at the county or municipal level.

We already pay a lot of taxes to the county and town each year. Beyond the business personal property tax, we pay about \$85,000 a year in real property taxes. And we don't even own the building we operate in - this is all paid on behalf of the landlord.

These tax rates on small manufacturing businesses are anti-competitive and they disincentivize business growth, especially at a time when the county needs to increase its business activity. These rates prevent us from hiring more people or giving more benefits. It stops us from purchasing more equipment, which means we are not growing. Further, these rates are hindering our ability to pay down our almost \$2 million loan for the equipment.

Further, why would a local municipality charge a rate that is more than 4x what the county is charging? This is not sustainable, and the annual depreciation is not fast enough on its own to drive down this astronomical tax that is overburdening individual business.

**At the most drastic level the consequences of not exempting this equipment and inventory could mean we have to close our doors because our business can't afford to exist anymore. Tax policy should encourage business growth - not tamp it down to the point of forced closure.**

I am asking for this committee to please vote in favor of HB 1243 to help small manufacturers succeed in Prince George's County.

**written testimony in support of HB 1243.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mark Burke

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Support of HB 1243  
by Mark Burke, Streetcar 82 Brewing co.**

Thank you Chair Wilkins and Vice Chair Feldmark. Thank you also to Delegate Williams for sponsoring this bill. Special thanks to Julie Verratti for the lead on this.

My name is Mark Burke and I am the founder of Streetcar 82 Brewing Co. in Hyattsville. We are a Deaf owned and operated manufacturing company and we have been in the business since 2018. We are proud to employ 11 Deaf staff on our team.

I write in support of HB 1243. These tax rates on small manufacturing businesses are anti-competitive and disincentivize business growth. At a time when the county needs to support businesses. The rates hinder the manufacturing businesses from being able to re-invest and grow as a business.

Tax policy should encourage business growth!

I ask the committee to please vote in favor of HB 1243 to help small manufacturers succeed in Prince George's County.