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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SB 803
Alcoholic Beverages]
Class 3 Wineries and Class 4 Limited Wineries – Bulk Wine

Good afternoon Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Finance Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 803, Class 3 Wineries and Class 4 Limited Wineries – Bulk Wine. Senate Bill 803 consists of minor technical fixes that enable our class 3 and class 4 wineries to be more resilient, better manage challenging growing seasons and to promote Maryland agriculture when it has a particularly strong year.

SB 803 codifies that farm wineries can sell and transport bulk wine to production wineries and that production wineries may acquire the bulk wine from them. This encourages the use of Maryland grapes, leading to the expansion of Maryland grape vintage acreage.

We are working on several amendments for the bill including the Wineries Association request to enable wineries to produce distilled brandy from their winery yields and not just pomace brandy,

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 803 with amendments to support our Maryland wineries and vineyards.