



**RE: SB 75 – Alcoholic Beverages - Class A License - Food Retailers**

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

My name is Julian (Blackie) Wills and I am the President and CEO for Dash In Convenience Stores, a Maryland-based company with 40 outlets in the state employing about 800 between these outlets. We are owned by The Wills Group, Inc., a Maryland-based company founded over 100 years ago and I am part of the fourth generation of family leadership for the organization. We have community-based values and donate over \$1.2 million annually to our charitable partners including various regional food banks.

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 75 with the following amendment:

- Removal of the minimum square footage requirement of 3,200 SF. There are Food Retailers that can meet the requirements of selling Food from five of the categories listed in the bill that are a smaller footprint than the 3,200 SF requirement. Any retailer that meets the requirements should be eligible for the Class A license.

Thank you for your consideration to remove the square footage requirement from the bill.

Sincerely,

Julian (Blackie) Wills III  
President & CEO  
443.532.5222  
[jbwills@willsgroup.com](mailto:jbwills@willsgroup.com)