

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of legislation that would allow the sale of beer and wine in local Maryland grocery stores.

Maryland consumers deserve the same convenience and modern retail options that residents in most other states already enjoy. Allowing grocery stores to sell beer and wine would provide greater accessibility for busy families, working professionals, and seniors who rely on one-stop shopping to manage their daily responsibilities efficiently.

This change would also strengthen Maryland's economy. Expanding beer and wine sales into grocery stores would create jobs, increase state and local tax revenues, and generate new opportunities for Maryland-based breweries and wineries to reach a broader customer base. It would encourage competition while supporting local producers and expanding consumer choice.

Importantly, grocery stores are already highly regulated environments with strict age-verification procedures in place for other restricted products. With appropriate safeguards, training requirements, and compliance standards, beer and wine sales can be implemented responsibly and safely.

Modernizing Maryland's alcohol retail laws reflects current consumer expectations while maintaining strong regulatory oversight. I respectfully urge you to support legislation that allows beer and wine sales in grocery stores across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hogle