



February 18, 2026

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB718 – Frederick County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L Permit

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of Visit Frederick (the Tourism Council of Frederick County), the designated and official destination marketing organization for Frederick County, MD, please accept this letter of support with amendment for **SB718 – Frederick County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L Permit** with the amendment being to merely specify that it is to only permit the sale by a holder or another holder of a **Maryland** manufacturer's license.

SB 718 will enhance Frederick's tourism economy by expanding permitting options for businesses that host visitors, events, and cultural attractions. Tourists increasingly seek destination experiences that integrate Maryland's local food and beverage culture with our historic sites, festivals, wineries, craft breweries, and event venues. This bill creates a new permit category designed to help Frederick County businesses better cater to these visitors and stimulate further tourism-related economic activity.

Tourism and hospitality are among Frederick's most dynamic economic sectors. Travelers choose destinations not only for natural and historic attractions, but also for quality culinary and beverage experiences — including local wines, craft beers, spirits, and farm-to-table events. Expanding the available license types helps local businesses host festivals, weddings, tastings, and other events that attract visitors from across the region and beyond. This in turn drives overnight stays, restaurant patronage, retail sales, and broader spending in the community.

By enabling Frederick County businesses to access a Class L permit, **SB 718** recognizes the importance of flexible and visitor-friendly alcohol licensing in supporting tourism growth. The bill supports job creation in hospitality and service sectors, increases consumer choice for travelers, and enhances the overall visitor experience — all of which strengthens the economic impact of tourism in Frederick.

We encourage everyone on the Senate Finance Committee to support **SB 718**. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Ziedelis".

Dave Ziedelis
Executive Director