

Greetings,

My name is John Phelps Jr and I am with High's of Baltimore and Carroll Motor Fuels. Carroll Fuel is a 4th generation family business based in Maryland since 1907 and High's has been serving Maryland communities since 1928 and we have hundreds of locations throughout Maryland and employee over 700 people in Maryland. I am writing today to ask you to support the following:

SB 75 Alcoholic Beverages – Class A License – Food Retailers – Authorizing a food retailer to offer to purchase a Class A license holder under certain circumstances; and authorizing a food retailer to apply to a local licensing board for a Class A license under certain circumstances.

SB 75 would allow us to continue to meet the needs of our customers. For years, customers have asked why we are unable to carry alcoholic beverages that they are able to buy from convenience stores in most other states. We are hoping for the opportunity to have a fair chance to be able to offer these products. We already sell age restricted products and comply with both state and local licensing requirements.

Over the years, our industry has dealt with a variety of cost increases, including hirer employment costs, tobacco and nicotine tax increases, and a much higher cost just to do business. This has caused us to have to adapt over time and make sure we continue to cater to the needs of the local communities we serve, whether that is an enhanced food service offer, or an expanded selection of grocery offer and first aid products.

Being able to have a chance to expand our offering to meet the needs of our customers would greatly benefit our ability to continue to serve the communities we operate in by providing the goods and service our customers ask for and helping support organizations like the Forest Park Recreational Council and the Johns Hopkins Children Center.

Thank you for considering our thoughts and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.