

**MIKE MCKAY**  
*Legislative District 1*  
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Executive Nominations Committee

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

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*Joint Committees*  
Administrative, Executive,  
and Legislative Review  
Children, Youth, and Families  
Program Open Space and Agricultural  
Land Preservation

*Williamsport Office*  
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Williamsport, Maryland

Senate Bill 802 – Garrett County - Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2026

February 20, 2026

Dear Chair Biedle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 802, which modernizes and strengthens Garrett County's alcoholic beverage regulations to better serve local businesses and residents. This legislation introduces practical updates, including the addition of a substitute member to the Board of License Commissioners to ensure continuity in decision-making, and the creation of a special event permit for Class 3 and Class 4 winery license holders. These changes will promote economic development by enabling wineries to host private events responsibly while maintaining safeguards such as advance scheduling, certified alcohol awareness personnel, and compliance with fire safety codes.

Additionally, SB 802 enhances accountability and public safety by requiring caterers and license holders exercising catering privileges to provide food service, maintain trained staff on-site, and ensure that food sales represent a significant portion of event costs. The bill also includes clear provisions for verifying citizenship or lawful immigration status on license applications, reinforcing transparency and compliance with state and federal law. By balancing business flexibility with strong consumer protections, SB 802 supports Garrett County's hospitality industry while upholding community standards.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mike McKay'.

Senator Mike McKay  
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland  
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties