



February 19, 2026

Good afternoon, members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

The Crossvines, located in Poolesville, Maryland, was created to support and promote the growth of the state's wine industry; our facility serves as an incubator for small wine businesses that lack a physical location and equipment. Currently, the state has two wine manufacturing licenses: the Class 3 Winery license and the Class 4 Farm Winery license. Class 3 wineries typically do not have vineyard acreage and are dependent on purchasing grapes or juice from others.

The current alcohol code does not permit a Class 4 winery like ours to sell bulk wine to a Class 3 winery. This is unfortunate because the current law permits a Class 3 winery to purchase bulk wine from anywhere else in the country or world, but not from a winery in its own backyard.

The technical fix in this bill creates nothing but positive outcomes. It:

- encourages Class 3 wineries to buy Maryland-made wine, grown from Maryland grapes
- helps Class 4 wineries sell any surplus grapes, juice, or wine when vineyard yields are higher than what the winery can reasonably use
- enables Class 3 wineries to offer a Maryland product
- spurs the expansion of Maryland vineyard acreage if more Class 3 wineries can buy local product

Our goal as a business is to support local agriculture, encourage the growth of the state's wine industry, and provide a place where businesses can start up, thrive, and eventually move to their own spaces. We are proud of the work we do and respectfully request that the Committee pass this bill. The 80+ wineries in our state appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Jon Lobenstine
Director of Agronomy
MCRA