

**PAMELA G. BEIDLE**  
*Legislative District 32*  
Anne Arundel County

Chair, Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management  
of Public Funds

Spending Affordability Committee



Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 East  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3593  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3593  
Pamela.Beidle@senate.maryland.gov

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

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**SB 803**  
**Alcoholic Beverages]**  
**Class 3 Wineries and Class 4 Limited Wineries – Bulk Wine**

Good afternoon Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr and Members of the Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 803, Class 3 Wineries and Class 4 Limited Wineries – Bulk Wine as amended. Senate Bill 803 passed the Finance Committee 10 – 0, and the Senate 45 – 0. It is the cross-file of HB 1111, they are not in the same posture. SB 803 consists of minor technical fixes that enable our class 3 and class 4 wineries to be more resilient, better manage challenging growing seasons and to promote Maryland agriculture when it has a particularly strong year.

SB 803 codifies that farm wineries can sell and transport bulk wine to production wineries and that production wineries may acquire the bulk wine from them. This encourages the use of Maryland grapes, leading to the expansion of Maryland grape vintage acreage.

The bill, as amended, allows our wineries to produce pomace brandy from Maryland-Grown Agricultural products, such as watermelon, blueberries or peaches. Under current law - Maryland Wineries can already produce pomace brandy from the residue of the wine pressing process. This is a minor expansion of what Maryland wineries can already do. This amendment supports Maryland agriculture and our wineries. No stakeholders have voiced opposition to this amendment.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 803 as amended to support our Maryland wineries and vineyards.