



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Bill 807

Alcoholic Beverages - Class 8 Farm Brewery Licenses

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Government, Labor, and Elections
Committee

Date: March 31, 2026

From: Dominic Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 807 WITH SPONSOR AMENDMENTS**. As amended, SB 807 provides clarity regarding state and local authority over the regulation of farm-based breweries. Counties appreciate the sponsor's work with MACo to address local concerns. While the Senate amendments resolve most outstanding issues, one additional technical sponsor amendment remains necessary to avoid a confusing conflict in the bill's provisions.

SB 807 clarifies that facilities licensed before July 1, 2015, are not required to comply with local zoning; confirms that licensees must be engaged in agribusiness and agritourism; authorizes the use of licensed food trucks and caterers, as well as the sale of cottage foods; and permits certain public events and festivities when conducted as part of agribusiness and agritourism activities. As amended, the bill reflects a more appropriate balance between supporting these operations and preserving local authority to shape communities and protect public health.

Land use and public health are two core county responsibilities, exercised to protect residents, communities, and the environment. With the Senate-adopted amendments, and the proposed sponsor amendment presented to the House committee, SB 807 represents a balanced and sensible public policy approach. For these reasons, MACo respectfully urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.