



## **Support with Amendments HB 1147**

February 25, 2020

### The Greener Kitchen Testimony for HB 1147

#### Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act)

Thank you to the Senate committee for hearing HB 1147 the Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act) today. The Greener Kitchen prioritizes having gender inclusive restrooms in our space because we believe in making our restaurant accessible to all. Ensuring that everyone feels comfortable when entering the restroom, whether for themselves, or as a caretaker for another person, is a core component of the overarching mission of our business. Creating a welcoming space for all by incorporating gender inclusive signage has only been a benefit to us as a business. Our business is located at 803 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230, and we were excited to see Baltimore City Council pass 19-0385 last year, on which HB 1147 was based. Codifying equity is the right thing to do, and as a business, we know it will make Maryland a safer and more welcoming place for our residents, as well as for tourists.

We have seen firsthand how eliminating barriers to restroom access by making our restroom gender inclusive has had an incredibly positive effect. Our customers know they can come to our business and receive respect and dignity, and they have let us know how powerful that is in their daily lives. Some of our transgender customers seek us out because they know that they will receive basic courtesies that are absent in other places of public accommodation, and that they won't have to be under scrutiny for what bathroom they enter. Hearing those stories lets us know how impactful such legislation can be in the everyday lives of Marylanders. We're proud to run such a business, and to be pushing for positive growth on many fronts.

This legislation is good for business, good for Marylanders, and is a simple way to update our laws so we can compete on a national level. Maryland will join Washington D.C., Philadelphia, as well as Baltimore City in enacting this legislation, and our business avidly supports this legislation.

Please vote in support of HB 1147 the Places of Public Accommodation and Public Buildings - Single-Occupancy Public Restrooms - Availability (The Accessible to All Act).