

DIAGEO

**TESTIMONY OF
Dwayne A. Kratt**

Before the House Economic Matters Committee

In support of House Bill 12

February 19, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman Davis and distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Maryland House Bill 12.

My name is Dwayne Kratt and I am a Sr. Director of State Government Affairs for the Diageo. Diageo is the world's leading premium drinks business with an outstanding collection of beverage alcohol brands across spirits and beer. Many of you are also aware that Maryland is home to our Guinness Brewery where we have been brewing beer since 2017 and have welcomed more than 600,000 guests since our grand opening in 2018.

We offer our enthusiastic endorsement for HB 12 as we join our bar and restaurant customers in support of this legislation.

Essentially, HB 12 codifies Governor Hogan's Executive Order permitting on premise licensees to add beer, wine or spirits products along with a take-out food order. This permissive activity has been viewed extremely favorably among on premise licensees throughout Maryland as it has served as a "lifeline" of sorts to these businesses. We would also note that this privilege has been extended via Executive Order and/or state legislation in 33 states along with the District of Columbia. Further, let me share with you that state policy makers throughout this country are contemplating similar legislation that will codify this new permissive activity.

And finally, to my knowledge, this practice has not resulted in any negative drunk driving consequences.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I welcome any questions that you or your Committee members may have regarding our support.