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Testimony in Support of
Senate Bill 821 – Alcoholic Beverages – Manufacturer’s Licenses and Off-Site Permits
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
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The Rural Maryland Council supports Senate Bill 821 – Alcoholic Beverages – Manufacturer’s Licenses and Off-Site Permits. A main component of this bill is to codify certain provisions that have been put in place through the Executive Order privileges during the pandemic for the State’s wineries, breweries, and distillers to distribute their product. This bill will allow a holder of a manufacturer’s license to deliver their product to an individual located in the State and directly ship their product to a consumer upon request.

Maryland’s distilleries, wineries, and breweries promote economic development, value-added agriculture, and manufacturing as they not only produce beverages but create destinations that attract tourists. According to the Value-Added Agriculture by Grow & Fortify and BEACON, the 2018 total value-added impact of these three industries was \$858 million and supported 2,558 jobs. The pandemic greatly impacted this industry with close to 500 layoffs reported to date and the authorization for direct-to-consumer delivery and shipment services has created a new lifeline for sales and kept many doors open during these unprecedented times.

The Rural Maryland Council supports the value-added agriculture industry as it enables farms to transition into diversified production. Senate Bill 821 further enhances this type of agriculture by providing delivery and shipping options for the State’s value-added craft beverages. The Council requests your favorable support of Senate Bill 821 – Alcoholic Beverages – Manufacturer’s Licenses and Off-Site Permits.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is an independent state agency governed by a nonpartisan, 40-member board that consists of inclusive representation from the federal, state, regional, county, and municipal governments, as well as the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. We bring together federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions.

“A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland”