



February 16, 2022  
Chair Wilson and Members of the  
Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 213  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB550-SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

The Maryland Tourism Coalition is in support of HB550 , which extends, from December 31, 2022, to June 30, 2023, the termination date for various provisions relating to alcoholic beverages manufacturer's licenses and off-site permits, including provisions that authorize most manufacturers to sell and deliver and to directly ship their own alcoholic beverages products to consumers under certain circumstances.

The Maryland Tourism Coalition is the statewide trade association that represents the all sectors of the tourism industry. We have many members that would benefit from the extension. While many see the pandemic as over, people's comfortability levels vary and many still remain cautious. We also have to look into the future as we are unsure if other variants of COVID-19 will come about. Late December of 2021 and January of 2022 is a prime example of how we can quickly revert to quarantining in order to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

The extension helps businesses with lost revenue as well as gives consumers the opportunity to have a product they liked shipped to them as it is not available in their local retail store. As someone who travels the state and attends many craft beverage shows, I often taste a spirit or beer that I cannot buy locally but would purchase if it was.

The Maryland Tourism Coalition asks to please give HB550 a favorable report to support this industry that represents agriculture, land preservation, tourism, tax revenue and economic development in our community.

Thank you in advance and if you have any question, please feel free to contact me directly at 336-254-4648 or [ruth@mdtourism.org](mailto:ruth@mdtourism.org)

Sincerely,  
Ruth Toomey  
*Ruth Toomey*  
Executive Director, Maryland Tourism Coalition