



February 15, 2024

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 1217 – Alcoholic Beverages – Breweries, Wineries, and Distilleries – Direct Delivery and Direct Shipment

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of Visit Frederick (the Tourism Council of Frederick County), the designated and official destination marketing organization for Frederick County, MD, please accept this letter of support for HB1217 – Alcoholic Beverages – Breweries, Wineries, and Distilleries – Direct Delivery and Direct Shipment.

HB1217 assists our dominate Craft Beverage Industry, a major driver of our Tourism, to allow temporary relief items that were in place during the COVID state of emergency into permanency - which includes direct to consumer shipping, delivery, and eliminates the 3 bottle per person retail cap.

Maryland craft beverage entities have invested heavily in online and shipping platforms to get their businesses through the COVID shutdowns. They have successfully leveraged this opportunity and now ship on average 550 shipments per year to Maryland residents generating important and essential revenues. If this opportunity sunsets this year and is not made permanent, craft beverage sales will plummet placing our craft beverage businesses into financial hardship.

We encourage everyone on the House Economic Matters Committee to support HB1217. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Ziedelis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dave Ziedelis
Executive Director