

February 5, 2021

Delegate Dereck E. Davis
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB428 - Montgomery County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – Annual Fees

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Dumais and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our 500-member businesses, of which more than 50 are restaurants and hotels in Montgomery County, this letter is in **Support of HB428 - Montgomery County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – Annual Fees**. This bill authorizes the Board of License Commissioners for Montgomery County to reimburse holders of alcoholic beverage licenses the entire amount of the annual license fee for 2020-2021 licensing period and waive the fee for 2021-2022 for certain licenses.

We realize that this new bill will negatively affect the annual income for the Montgomery County's Alcohol Beverage Services (ABS) department, however we believe that given ABS contributes over \$30 million a year to the general fund from their sales, the impact is worth it. Restaurants and hotels have been one of the worst impacted industries in the County, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given that most of these businesses are barely keeping their doors open and it's still questionable before the majority of businesses in these two industries are able to make a profit, this break from having to pay this license fee would be a very welcome reprieve.

We ask you to please vote FAVORABLE on HB428 and thank you for your consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,



Allie Williams
President & CEO