



February 6, 2017

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 130 – Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Fund – Support

Dear Delegate Barve:

House Bill 130 simplifies the administration of Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Fund by the creation of a one-step process to replace the current three-step process. Under the bill, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing will make grant recommendations to the Maryland Department of Agriculture for the \$150,000 annual promotion fund generated through sales tax on Maryland wines. The Commission includes grape growers, wine makers, members of the General Assembly and advisors from the University of Maryland. Under the bill, grants no longer require the approval of the Board of Public Works. Grants are typically issued in amounts less than \$20,000.

This Bill will allow grape growers and wine makers a central role in issuing grants and keeping the Board of Public Works out of the process, making it more productive and successful.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 560 members, supports this bill and asks that you give it a favorable report

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Delegate Susan W. Krebs
Senator Justin Ready