



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony for Council Bill No. 44 - 2013 (Zoning Amendment for Farm Breweries)

To: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Marsha McLaughlin, Director *mm*
Department of Planning and Zoning

Date: August 30, 2013

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports adoption of Council Bill No. _____ - 2013 which amends Section 103.0 (Definitions) of the Zoning Regulations to add the terms "Farm Brewery" and "Farm Brewery – Class 1A"; amends Section 104.0 (RC: Rural Conservation) and Section 105.0 (RR: Rural Residential) to add "Farm Brewery – Class 1A" as a permitted accessory use under Section 104.C., subject to certain permit provisions; amends Section 128.0.O (Supplementary District Regulations) to revise the permit requirements for a "Farm Winery – Class 1A" to add the "Farm Brewery – Class 1A" use as similar accessory use; and amends Section 106.1.C.1 (Howard County Preservation Easements) to add "Farm Brewery- Class 1A" as a permitted accessory use for ALPP Purchased Easements, ALPP Dedicated Easements, and for other dedicated easements, subject to certain permit provisions. (Note: all section references in this memo refer to the proposed Zoning Regulations effective October 6, 2013.)

The proposed Farm Brewery use would be almost identical to the current Farm Winery use, differing mainly in the types of agricultural ingredients used in processing, the ingredients processing methods, and the types of beverages that would result from processing. This proposal was prompted by new State legislation that allows farms to brew and sell beer after obtaining a license through the State, coupled with interest from county residents.

There are no direct fiscal impact associated with adoption of this Council Bill, however, development of farm breweries would create jobs and have a positive economic impact.

Please contact me if you have any questions at x4301.

cc: Jessica Feldmark, Chief of Staff
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator
Ray Wacks, Budget Administrator
Kimberley Flowers, Deputy Director, DPZ