

**Larry Hogan**  
Governor

**Boyd K. Rutherford**  
Lt. Governor



**Jeffrey A. Kelly**  
Executive Director

## Maryland Alcohol and Tobacco Commission

February 24, 2022

Hon. D. Antonio Bridges  
Chairman  
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee  
House of Delegates  
State of Maryland  
Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Hon. Cory V. McCray  
Chairman  
Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee  
Maryland Senate  
State of Maryland  
221 James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Re: FY23 Appropriations for the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission**

Chairs Bridges and McCray:

I write on behalf of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC) to inform both the Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee (PSAS) of the House Economic Matters Committee and the Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee (PSTE) of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee that the ATC concurs with the Department of Legislative Services' (DLS) recommendation of a \$5,312,492 appropriation to fund agency operations for FY23.

The directive of the ATC is to oversee, regulate, and enforce alcohol and tobacco laws in the State of Maryland. Performing this duty within the 12,400 square miles of land in the State, where there are approximately 5,457 tobacco and 9,104 alcoholic beverage retailers, can present a challenge. However, our team, along with the local liquor boards, health departments, and law enforcement units, are dedicated to working in partnership to ensure the compliance of wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, and retailers with the State's applicable laws.

DLS' recommended FY23's appropriation includes a \$1,591,634 increase that supports the ATC's mission by funding positions and equipment for 7 additional law enforcement officers. This year's appropriation also provides an additional administrative position. These needed positions will help build the capacity of the ATC in FY23, thereby allowing it to provide greater state-wide coverage.

The Commission and staff remain dedicated to its mission to educate and inform the public on topical issues related to alcohol and tobacco, as well as enforcing the law for the benefit and well-being of the citizens of Maryland. The ATC believes that DLS' FY23 recommendation fully supports the agency's mission and concurs with it.

I welcome the opportunity to address any questions or concern of either the PSAS or PSTE Subcommittees and will be happy to answer any questions its members may have for the ATC.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kelly  
Executive Director