

September 7, 2009

We are fine wine and liquor retailers and support direct wine shipping. All Maryland wine and liquor retailers should, too. The proposed legislation would not only allow wineries to ship but also retailers. That would significantly increase consumer choice in our state. Customers could send gifts of wine from our stores and buy older vintages or hard-to-find bottles simply by calling or emailing. Fine wine retailers like us are as frustrated as our customers who frequently have to shop out of state to buy what they want, robbing Maryland of taxes and retailers like us of more business. Maryland only allows one liquor license per individual, so our businesses are limited now to the people who walk through our doors. Retailer shipping is not a threat to anyone. It will open up our great selection and customer service to many more customers. For the vast majority of neighborhood and urban liquor stores, direct shipping is irrelevant. Bring Maryland into the 21st Century by modernizing Maryland's interpretation of the 21st Amendment.

Cecile Giannangeli, owner of finewine.com (Gaithersburg)

Bob Schindler, owner of Pinehurst Wine Shoppe (Baltimore)



Pinehurst Wine Shoppe