




OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

January 24, 2018

TO: Hans Riemer, President
George Leventhal, Councilmember At-large
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Isiah Leggett 
County Executive

SUBJECT: Response to MOVE Program Modification

Thank you for your letter dated October 17, 2017 regarding the proposed modification to expand the MOVE program to include craft alcohol production businesses.

We agree that advancing the craft alcohol production industry is aligned with Montgomery County's economic development goals. Breweries, wineries and distilleries help create a sense of vitality, enhance place-making in our urban centers, and grow middle-wage and middle-skilled jobs with upward mobility.

Our existing MOVE program was intended to attract new businesses into our office market. We are pleased with the progress so far and are willing to explore other similar means to bring more businesses to our commercial hubs.

Consistent with the original MOVE program, companies eligible for this expanded MOVE program should be craft alcohol production companies whose primary use of the space is production, not retail. Only the production portion of the leased space in Class A or B commercial buildings would be eligible for the MOVE incentive up to 20,000 square feet for each new company. We support the Council's requested new language (underlined) to the Department of Finance, MOVE Program Summary, as follows:

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To qualify for assistance under the MOVE Program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

...

2. All businesses are eligible except for retail, restaurant, and independent financial or insurance agent/broker establishments. Independent agent/broker establishments are defined as a sole proprietorship that primarily sells products underwritten by a third-party. Craft alcohol production companies (breweries, cideries, distilleries, and wineries) whose primary use of the space is production are eligible notwithstanding their retail operations.

...

Due to the highly targeted nature of this incentive modification, and the amount of capital required of the alcohol craft production industry, we anticipate that no more than a handful of companies in the coming years would consider taking advantage of this incentive. As funds for MOVE grants are limited, we will consider supplemental funding as needed.

Thank you for your efforts to grow Montgomery County's craft alcohol industry and economy.