

Wes Moore Governor Aruna K. Miller Lt. Governor Jeffrey A. Kelly Executive Director

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In the early hours of March 26, 2024, at precisely 1:28 a.m., the Francis Scott Key Bridge, a keystone of Baltimore's historic skyline and vital connection between Maryland's counties, tragically collapsed into the river. This event has profoundly affected numerous lives and disrupted many businesses throughout the region. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of the men whose lives were lost, and our gratitude to the heroic first responders and recovery workers whose bravery and relentless dedication continue to inspire us all. Maryland's spirit of resilience and fortitude remains undiminished as the city navigates the path to recovery.

In response to this urgent need, the Maryland General Assembly acted by passing the bipartisan Maryland Protecting Opportunities and Regional Trade (PORT) Act. Signed into law by Governor Wes Moore on April 9, 2024, this critical legislation provides necessary financial assistance to businesses and workers impacted by the collapse. It leverages the State's Rainy-Day Fund to support these essential financial programs, demonstrating our collective commitment to rebuilding and resilience.

We applaud the rapid and decisive actions of the General Assembly and Governor Wes Moore's administration in establishing these vital supports. We want to ensure that the alcoholic beverage and tobacco products manufacturers, wholesalers, and permit holders issued by the ATCC in the region impacted by the bridge collapse are aware of this work.

For those applicable license and permit holders who are interested in accessing PORT Act related resources, please contact the following individual:

Walter Donoughe, Policy Advisor to Governor Wes Moore's Deputy Chief of Staff, at <u>walter.donoughe1@maryland.gov</u>.

As always, the ATCC is here to assist with any inquiries regarding licensing or other related concerns. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our

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licensing team at <u>atcc.licensing@maryland.gov</u>. We ask that you also include the phrase "FSK impact" in your email subject line so that we can channel it appropriately.

We also urge you to share this information broadly within your networks within the Baltimore Metropolitan region, thereby ensuring that impacted ATCC license and permit holders receive the support they need during this critical time.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together towards a swift and thorough recovery.

Warm regards,

Jor Kelly