



County of Albemarle
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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To: Albemarle County Economic Development Authority
From: Ashley Hernandorena, Business Development Manager
Date: 10/20/2026
Regarding: Virginia Wine Industry Supply Chain Research Program — GO Virginia FY27

Background:

In 2025, Virginia's wine industry generated more than \$8 Billion in economic impact, yet significant supply chain spending is outsourced outside the Commonwealth annually. Albemarle County has one of the largest winery concentrations in Virginia and its producers shoulder a proportionally large share of the supply chain burden.

Nelson County, as lead applicant, has invited Albemarle County to participate in a GO Virginia FY27 Multi-Region Competitive Planning Grant focused on quantifying and addressing supply chain gaps in Virginia's wine industry. The total project budget is \$180,000, with \$120,000 requested from GO Virginia and \$60,000 in required non-state match.

Proposed Investment: \$5,000 Support - Source Economic Development Investment Pool EDOF 5807

The Planning Grant will measure leakage in key wine production inputs such as bottles, closures, labels, and packaging; inventory existing supplier capacity; assess workforce and sustainability requirements; study proven strategies in peer regions; and produce and implementation plan identifying opportunities for in-state production, logistics, and shared infrastructure.

Alignment & Recommendation:

The request for support is aligned with the Albemarle County Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) and specifically Grow a Modern Agribusiness Economy, Strategy 3.6: Support the growth of Albemarle County's wine industry in the following capacities:

- **Strengthening key traded-sector industries:** Wine is a signature industry with substantial local employment, tourism synergies, and regional manufacturing potential.
- **Advancing cluster development:** The research evaluates opportunities for new light manufacturing and packaging suppliers—activities aligned with EDSP goals to grow higher-wage manufacturing jobs.
- **Improving business competitiveness:** Providing evidence-based insights into freight, sourcing, and working-capital efficiencies directly improves producer resilience and growth potential.
- **Supporting regional collaboration:** The grant meets EDSP objectives related to multi-jurisdictional initiatives and leverages GO Virginia's framework to develop implementable regional projects.

Staff recommends support of this initiative as it aligns closely with EDSPs priorities by supporting workforce development, agricultural resilience, business retention, tourism, and the protection of existing agricultural investments.