

Shakia Williams
Cyrenity Sips Winery
31 S. York Road
Hatboro, PA 19040
shakia.williams@cyrenitysips.com | 610-764-5228
January 4, 2026

The Honorable Representative Roger Williams
Chair, Committee on Small Business
2336 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez
Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business
2302 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: January 7 Hearing on Small Businesses

Dear Chair Williams, Ranking Member Velázquez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shakia Williams, and I reside in Hatboro, Pennsylvania. I am the owner and winemaker of Cyrenity Sips Winery, a small-batch urban winery that employs between two and five people in Philadelphia. I am writing to share my concerns regarding the growing financial pressures facing small beverage manufacturers as a result of tariffs, inflation, and rising global costs.

Over the past year, prices have increased across nearly every aspect of our supply chain, directly impacting both our operating costs and customer spending behavior. As a result, Cyrenity Sips Winery has experienced a 12% decrease in sales at the winery. Our customers are increasingly prioritizing necessities, leaving less discretionary income for micro-small, locally owned businesses like mine.

Tariffs have compounded these challenges. We are no longer able to source wine juice from South Africa, which has reduced product variety and flexibility. Our glass supply chain—largely dependent on China—has increased by 17%, and wine juices sourced from Chile have increased by 5.5%. These cost increases are significant for a business of our size and cannot be easily absorbed.

I have carefully considered several difficult options: raising prices, which would place additional strain on our customers; returning to part-time work outside of the winery to supplement income; or closing our tasting room and focusing solely on manufacturing for private events and festivals. The latter option would fundamentally undermine the mission of Cyrenity Sips Winery, which was created to serve as a hub for community, connection, and accessibility to wine.

Historically, we have worked hard to keep our pricing affordable. However, without relief, we may be forced to raise prices simply to maintain overhead costs and retain staff.

I respectfully ask the Committee to consider the following actions:

1. Support targeted tariff relief or exclusions for essential input that micro-small businesses cannot readily source domestically.
2. Convene listening sessions with local micro- small businesses, particularly manufacturers and hospitality operators, to better understand the real-world impacts of tariffs and inflation, including price increases, supply shortages, delayed orders, and hiring slowdowns.
3. Ensure small producers are represented in trade and economic policy discussions, so that policies do not disproportionately burden businesses that lack the scale or capital to absorb sudden cost increases.

I would welcome the opportunity to provide additional information or participate in further discussions. Thank you for taking the time to hear directly from small business owners and for your continued efforts to support local economies.

**Sincerely,
Shakia Williams
Owner & Winemaker
Cyrenity Sips Winery
Hatboro, PA**