



April 28, 2022

Chair Moran and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce representing more than 6,300 businesses and more than a half million employees throughout Minnesota, we respectfully request that you consider allowing convenience stores to sell full strength beer at their locations.

The House Omnibus Liquor Bill takes into account that Minnesota's consumers have changed their purchasing preferences, highlighted during the pandemic, and as a result the state should review and update liquor laws to reflect these preferences. Included in the Omnibus liquor bill are several provisions that increase consumers' options, including supporting local brewers and distillers.

However, missing is a key provision that will provide convenience for Minnesotans who would like to purchase full strength beer. Minnesota remains the last state in the nation to license 3.2% beer. Surrounding states have kept up with the changing consumer preferences and demand. Border cities are significantly impacted by the current outdated laws.

Allowing consumers more convenience in where they can buy full strength beer, while licensed by local municipalities, is a practical step in making our laws reflect consumer preferences and choice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tony Kwilas
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce