



The Honorable Zack Stephenson, Chair
Minnesota House Commerce Committee
Room 509, State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1232

Re: Angry Inch Brewing testimony on HF 1192 (Olson)

Dear Chair Stephenson and Members of the Committee:

I would like to thank you in advance for taking valuable time from your schedule to hear my thoughts, and to listen to this bill in committee. For almost two years we have been working tirelessly to adapt to this ever changing economy, abide by all health recommendations to keep our staff and patrons safe, follow mandates put into place to safeguard our communities and to persevere as a small business in an unthinkable new world.

This Bill would allow our business a greater opportunity for recovery and chance to grow stronger as we continue through and, hopefully soon, see the end of this pandemic. I know that Covid-19 will not be a singularity as viruses are a living organism and will continue to struggle to survive and grow, just as we are as a human race. Because of that, I believe that now is the time to put in place fair and balanced laws to prepare us all for whatever this world throws at us next.

The fact alone that Minnesota is the only state that requires a 750ml off sale vessel is absurd. Never should, especially during a global pandemic, a small business such as ours have to suffer from outdated laws and be faced with legal action just for packaging our legally made product in safe and economically feasible and available packaging. When the packaging manufacturer Ball ran out of 750ml cans in June of 2021, and wasn't planning further production until September/October of 2021, we were faced with a grave situation. We could buy a canning machine and start filling 12oz & 16oz cans to sell as 4 & 6 packs to liquor stores at a cost that would be unsustainable for a brewery our size, but we couldn't sell those EXACT same cans and sell them directly to our customers who were already doing everything in their power to support us.

Our communities are amazing, and what I have seen Minnesota Craft Breweries do for their communities has been amazing as well! I just hope that in an Economical Business Infrastructure based of free trade, will see how unfair and unbalanced the current system is.

Please, let us who are the physical manufacturers of these products, be allowed to legally sell them to our patrons in a way that is unhindered by antiquated laws that primarily benefit wholesalers and retailers who haven't spent the days, weeks, months and years perfecting a craft that we hold so dear. Again, I am unendingly grateful for the hours of hard work that you and your fellow Legislators have contributed to the healing and recovery of this great state. I hope that you can find it in your hearts to reciprocate that respect of time and dedication to fellow compatriots of the great state of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Jon Erickson
Owner/Founder/Head Brewer
Angry Inch Brewing
Lakeville | 8 Employees