



April 30, 2020

Representative Dan Wolgamott
401 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
Via email: rep.dan.wolgamott@house.mn

Dear Representative Wolgamott:

I am writing to support the passage of H.F. 3572 and H.F. 3573, two bills that will enable the City of St. Cloud to enhance and support

H.F. 3572 authorizes the City to issue on-sale wine and beer licenses to a junior league hockey team or a contractor on the premises of the City's Municipal ice arena.

The City of St. Cloud has a policy of working closely with business partners to enhance the benefits of our public facilities to users and patrons. Our preference is to allow major tenants who have the organization capacity to act as responsible alcoholic beverage vendors to do so, rather than use City employees.

The St. Cloud Blizzard of the North American Hockey League are new to our Municipal Athletic Complex (MAC), having just completed their first season here. Under current law, the only license that the Blizzard could hold would limit them to offering 3.2% beer, which would be a disservice to the team and their patrons. Patrons do not prefer 3.2% beer and the stock is very difficult to obtain because Minnesota is now the only state in the nation still requiring it in some instances.

This provision is modeled on a bill passed in 2014 for the City of Richfield.

H.F. 3573 amends existing law to allow a license holder serving a summer collegiate baseball team to serve alcoholic beverages at other events at the City's baseball stadium.

The St. Cloud Rox Northwoods League team has been a treasured part of our community for many years and the city already issues the team a license to dispense alcohol at Joe Faber Field at the MAC. This arrangement has been in place for several years and is beneficial to the team, the city, and the fans.

The MAC, including Joe Faber Field, is very heavily used by a wide variety of teams and organizations, and numerous tournaments, but current law limits the Rox to serving alcoholic beverages at their own games. And state law prohibits more than one license covering the same geographic area, so no other license can be used. This means that other renters of the stadium are unable to have alcoholic beverages available to their patrons.

This amendment will affect the St. Cloud Rox, but the benefit will primarily be to those other organizations and their patrons.

I appreciate the willingness of the Committee to consider these bills. We believe in working together with our business community; both bills will benefit the teams, their ardent fans, and the city.

Sincerely,



Dave Kleis
Mayor, City of St. Cloud