



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

Re: Wooden Ship Brewing Company testimony on HF 1192 (Olson)

Dear Chair Stephenson and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Wooden Ship Brewing Co. in support of the entire Drink Local Bill with specific emphasis on modification to malt liquor packaging and on-sale requirements. As an owner of a local brewery that is strongly oriented around community engagement and dedication to high quality craft beer, the packaging modification would allow our business to sell the product that we manufacture in a more appealing serving size to our customers over the counter. This may seem like a minor change, but it returns power to local business by allowing us to control how our product is represented to the public as well as maintain a higher quality product, something that is foundational to the craft beverage industry.

In addition to giving our business the opportunity to grow into a new market, this modification would in turn provide a sustainable way for us to pay our workers what they deserve and help keep us on track to reach new minimum wage targets. This opportunity for growth is necessary especially to Wooden Ship Brewing Company as we opened in May of 2021 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. On our journey out of the pandemic, providing a multitude of to-go products to patrons fits naturally within our mission of creating a community of craft beer enthusiasts all while making beer more accessible to the public. Furthermore, this would keep our state competitive with other states in which craft beer is a prominent fixture of their creative communities.

Let's stop kicking the can down the road so we can sell it at our brick and mortar instead.

Sincerely,

Suresh Graf
Director of Business Operations
Wooden Ship Brewing Company
Minneapolis | 10 Employees