



North Dakota House Committee on Industry, Business and Labor
Representative Mike Lafor, Chair
Representative George Keiser, Vice Chair
Wednesday, March 10th, 2021

STRONG SUPPORT SB 2321 - A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 5-01-14 and 5-01-21 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to microbrew pubs and brewer taprooms

Written Testimony of Jesse Feigum
Drekker Brewing Company, Co-Founder
North Dakota Brewers Guild, Board Member & Treasurer

Chairman Lafor, Vice Chairman Keiser and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee,

My name is Jesse Feigum and I'm the Co-Founder and Head of Nerderly at Drekker Brewing Company in Fargo and a board member and treasurer of the North Dakota Brewers Guild. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my strong support for Senate Bill 2321.

Many others will testify about some of the important provisions in this bill, such as cleaning up the packaging size restrictions for brewpubs, in-state direct shipping to consumers, and contract brewing, but I'd like to specifically talk about the issue of event & festival permits.

These licenses are utilized by breweries so we can take our products to industry expositions, festivals and community gatherings across the state where we might have the opportunity to share our products, educate customers on North Dakota breweries and the brewing process, explain our usage of North Dakota agriculture products and eventually sell those products to new customers.

Currently North Dakota breweries are allowed 20 Festival permits annually, half of what is provided to wineries and distillers. This was an arbitrary number arrived at by some prediction of how permits would be used and the increased demand for these types of events has highlighted the inconsistency between different alcohol producers in the state. Since this law was originally written the North Dakota brewing scene has grown significantly along with consumer interest in learning more about North Dakota made products and seeking a connection with the state's agriculture and food and beverage production industries.

These event licenses are currently used for things like farmer's markets, street fairs, town festivals, Pride of Dakota events, and other community events where locally grown and

produced products are sampled and sold. So these are absolutely essential for us to market our products and participate in these festivals and gatherings, however we are severely limited by the current restriction. We have to constantly turn down opportunities and ration these licenses throughout the year to make sure we don't run out of permits and miss an opportunity later in the year.

The tax office handles all of the applications and nothing would change in regards to their approval process or their eligibility guidelines. Senate Bill 2321 would just give breweries the same opportunities that wineries and distilleries currently have in North Dakota by increasing the number of licenses we are allowed from 20 to 40 annually and I strongly ask for your support on this measure.

Respectfully,

Jesse Feigum
Drekker Brewing Company, Co-Founder
North Dakota Brewers Guild, Board Member & Treasurer