

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: SB76
Date: Thursday, April 26, 2018 7:38:43 AM

Public Testimony SB 76

From: Jeanne Kitayama & Paul Wheeler <hainesbrew@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 1:50 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Gary Stevens <Sen.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB76

Dear Senators,

SB76 is a cumbersome bill. I appreciate that the Senate version deletes the 80/20 (wholesale/retail) section in the Senate version, which would have crushed our 19-year-old small business in Haines. Yet please also consider that the layering of licenses only complicates and adds expenses, for breweries and the ABC staff.

Craft breweries have become integral parts of each of their communities. Not only does our industry contribute to economic well-being, but it also draws in tourism and new residents. The 80/20 provision would strangle small breweries like ours, and stifle economic development in Alaska. Our tasting room and retail sales make up more than half of our total income, which contributes to the local tax base.

Alaska's restrictions on brewery tasting rooms – limited serving quantities, hours, and activities – make us unique, a feature that we use in marketing and branding. In our personal experience these restrictions have created a healthy social venue for our community.

I applaud the parts of SB76 that tighten penalties on serving minors and such issues of negligence. We have been in the brewery business long enough to appreciate legislation that allows tasting rooms, and to maintain this status we are very strict on following the laws.

We are not in competition with traditional bars, as we have a completely different clientele. Our customers are comfortable at the brewery where the evenings are early and drinking is limited.

In such a discussion, a regular customer who does frequent the other drinking establishments in town, swept his arm across the room and said, "I never see any of

these people at the bars." Just last week a respected Haines Borough leader said, "It's so great to be able to come here with my family to socialize." We are a safe, social hub in Haines.

In the dark days of Alaskan winters this type of community socializing brings people out of isolation and into a better frame of mental health.

Thank you for considering these thoughts, and to assure that the 80/20 provision stays OUT of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Kitayama & Paul Wheeler

Owners, Haines Brewing Company

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Paul Wheeler & Jeanne Kitayama

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