

From: Eileen S. Julian
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: House Bill 269
Date: Friday, February 2, 2018 5:32:51 PM

To the Alaskan Legislature,

I completely disagree with the recent interpretations the Alcohol Board has made regarding distilleries and their ability to provide their products in a reasonable manner. Along the same line of thinking, it seems that they would argue that a grocery store cannot provide some cooked foods in their deli, because only a restaurant can provide that. There are huge differences in the ambiance and style between a full restaurant and a grocery store deli, and different clientele will prefer one over the other, but you would not pass a stupid law restricting a grocery store from selling some cooked foods, nor a restaurant from selling some bottled sauces or take-home breads. In the same way, a distillery is like a grocery store and the current interpretation the Board is making is beyond asinine. I can only guess that some restaurant owners (aka legit bars) feel that their business is threatened, but in truth the type of person who prefers the distinctly different atmosphere of a distillery usually does not choose to patronize bars--instead that asinine interpretation would stifle a growing industry and restrict our Constitutional freedoms. I thought I lived in ALASKA, where we value freedom and choice and limited invasive government.

Please make the **RIGHT** choice--respect my freedoms. Respect business rights. Show intelligent, thoughtful decisions. Please pass House Bill 269 to restore some common sense--although the fact that a law has to be made for this is also stupid, but apparently it is a necessity.

Sincerely,
Eileen Julian
Fairbanks, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

From: kendall_somewhere@yahoo.com
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Distillery question
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 9:22:52 AM

Dear committee members,

As a resident of Skagway I've been very pleased to have a new business in town. Our little distillery is well run, immaculately clean, and a wonderful new draw for locals and tourists. It's another help to our economy and would be nice to have as a year round operation.

Our community was very disappointed to hear that the family run business was no longer going to be a place for conversation and gathering as no one wants to drink 3 oz of straight gin or vodka. The care that went into the cocktails they served was part of what drew us to have a drink there. There is already a strict limit that is carefully adhered to, so there's no concern that patrons will be poorly behaved or any of the other ill affects of overimbibing.

I'm sure we are not the only town with the exact same concerns. Why can't the state just issue a different kind of license that allows these businesses to continue doing what they do so well. Many other states can be used as models for how to license them appropriately. Please do not stop Alaskan entrepreneurs when our state needs the influx of money. That would be shortsighted.

Please pass house bill 269 to correct the 2017 decision that effectively shut down Alaskan distillery tasting rooms.

Thank you for your time,
Kendall Emery
P.O. Box 1083
Skagway, AK 99840

via handheld device

From: Jill Shipman
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Fairbanks Resident Testimony on HOUSE BILL NO. 269
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:30:54 AM

Dear Alaska House Community and Regional Affairs Committee,

I am a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska. I am testifying in support of House Bill No. 269. I support local businesses and diversification of economy in our state. I believe that distilleries should be able to include mixers, liquids, or garnishes, that are not alcoholic beverages with their distillery products.

Please pass House Bill No. 269 to strengthen the economy and enable these distilleries to better promote their products.

Respectfully Yours,

Jill Shipman
2548 Dall Sheep Lane Apt B
Fairbanks, AK. 99709

From: delia varkret
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 269
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 7:33:18 AM

Hello,

I don't go to bars but now that Fairbanks has at least two distillery tasting rooms I frequently go there to enjoy cocktails, First Friday art events, and I go there for a quiet, smoke free space to visit for a bit.

I support HB 269 which amends the 2014 law to affirm that distilleries may serve their distilled product with other ingredients (alcoholic and non alcoholic, and including garnishes) to create mixed drinks/cocktails. If it is not explicit in HB269, it should state that the ingredients used to mix with the distillery product can be produced, manufactured, created by other companies and/or produced by the distillery.

I encourage you all to support this bill, and to support small local business.

Thank you for your time.

-Delia

Delia Vargas Kretsinger
1728 Old John Trail
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Lisa Daugherty
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 269
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 9:16:41 AM

I wholly support tasting rooms serving mixed drinks. Distilleries are an up-and-coming industry in Alaska and we need to recognize that! People are not going to patronize tasting rooms if they have to sample only shots. Amalga Distillery in particular has added vitality to Downtown Juneau. We need to foster the development of businesses that serve LOCALS as well as tourists. Please support small business development in Juneau, not suppress it!

Thank you,
Lisa Daugherty

From: Atlin Daugherty
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 269
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 9:20:03 AM

I wholly support tasting rooms serving mixed drinks. Distilleries are an up-and-coming industry in Alaska and we need to recognize that! People are not going to patronize tasting rooms if they have to sample only shots. Please don't let a wording issue wreck the business plans of our distilleries! Amalga Distillery in particular has added vitality to Downtown Juneau. We need to foster the development of businesses that serve LOCALS as well as tourists. Please support small business development in Juneau, not suppress it!

Thank you,
Thomas Atlin Daugherty

From: ML111
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HR 269
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 9:03:38 AM

I support our local distillery here in Skagway, and the industry in general. Allowing the distilleries to serve their products in a tasting room environment allows them to introduce those products to new customers. Since most distilled liquors are designed to be consumed with a non-alcoholic mixer, it is appropriate to allow the distillers to market their products in the manner they are intended to be used.

Mark Larsen

From: Lori Neufeld
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: In support of tasting rooms serving cocktails
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 12:07:57 AM

Dear Alaska Delegation,

This letter is in support of allowing distillery tasting rooms to serve their 3 ounces of locally-produced spirits in a cocktail/mixed drink. My husband owns Fairbanks Distilling Company and has worked very hard to bring a corner of Downtown Fairbanks back to life. Small businesses, like distilleries, are an important part of our economic future. Our customers are tourists, locals, bar owners and servers. We need to highlight our products in the manner they are enjoyed at a bar, restaurant or at home. Our hope is that most Alaskan establishments will fill their shelves and menus with Alaskan-produced products. We need to be able to make cocktails to ensure this partnership is possible. Tourists and locals would like to enjoy a mixed drink from our knowledgeable distillery tenders. This encourages them to order that locally-produced spirit when they go out to dinner or drinks or when they go to buy a bottle at the store.

The current law already separates tasting rooms from bars in important ways. A limited amount is allowed per person, per day. Tasting rooms are closed by 8pm and no live entertainment or TVs are allowed. These are good rules that many folks enjoy.

Thank you for your time and for your support of local businesses in Alaska,
Lori Neufeld
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: Nancy Shima
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: public comment in support of allowing distilleries to serve their product samples in the form of cocktails
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:47:28 AM

I am writing this public comment in support of allowing distillery tasting rooms to mix/serve their featured products in combination with other liquid/solid components, and I strongly urge you to support the growth and success of our fledgling Alaska-Spirited alcohol production industries.

It is well-recognized that high-proof distilled products are often more desirably consumed in conjunction with other flavor-agreeable diluting components (i.e. served in forms such as a cocktail, toddy, on ice etc.) The alcohol regulatory board seems to acknowledge that a mixed drink form can provide an optimal sampling/consuming presentation, but apparently questions whether only a consumer or other person (rather than a distillery employee) should be allowed to prepare/combine the components that contrive their sample "mixed" drink. Either way, the same concoction or combination of ingredients can be consumed, but when the distillery employees (who have the most product expertise and interest) are not allowed direct control in the "samples' mixing processes, component proportions, and tastes, a significant aspect of the distilleries' most successful marketing tool stands to be undermined.

Allowing distillery personnel to prepare controlled batches of sampling drinks for public consumption helps assure that the tasting samples can be offered in their tastiest form. Tasting rooms are generally the most effective and the primary marketing tool that distilleries rely upon to promote (bulk) bottle purchases of their primary products for off-premises consumption. It seems only reasonable to support, rather than interfere with these current core marketing strategies. Please allow continued use of an optimal sampling mechanism in which employees can prepare and serve sample drink mixtures.

Alaskan communities are very proud of their unique Alaskan-spirit industries and products, and appreciate their added commerce and local contributions. We Alaskans must all pull together to help buck the tide of our state's present fiscal crisis, and I implore you to not legislate unnecessary hurdles that may interfere with their ability to present their great Alaskan Spirits!

Nancy Shima

Juneau Ak



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: Angela Major
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Remove restrictions on Alaska Distilleries
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:53:03 AM

Alaska distilleries are an important part of our Alaskan Economy and contribute more positively to tourism than bars and restaurants.

These distilleries are an important element of a growing tourism sector.

While I support the drink/fluid ounce maximum at our distilleries, we need to remove restrictions for mixed drinks and further allow for other activities to include entertainment, yoga, paint nights, whatever meets the needs of the community they operate in.

Distilleries provide a significantly different atmosphere than bars and restaurants. They draw a different clientele and frankly are more inviting than many bars and restaurants. Especially for a crowd that would not typically visit a bar.

Give distilleries the freedom to meet their customers demands and watch them even further grow our economy.

From: lhorvathk@mosquitonet.com
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: support HB 269
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:47:38 AM

I fully support our distilleries and think that they shouldn't be restricted from mixing their product with the mixers they provide. Separating the alcohol from the mixers encourages drinking shots, which is irresponsible drinking.

It's also very "anti-Alaska" on the part of AMCO to work against, to stifle Alaska's newest small business ventures, instead of adapting the wording in the regulations to what they were originally intended to be.

Loretta Horvath
4115 Old Wood Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

907-455-6923

From: Jochen Mezger
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Support of House Bill No. 269
Date: Friday, February 2, 2018 9:57:08 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska for the past five years. When I moved to Fairbanks from Germany, downtown Fairbanks was a place I rarely visited. However, in the past couple of years, new locally owned and operated businesses transformed it into an attractive location. Among the venues I frequently visit is the new distillery on Cushman street. They make great vodka there, and just recently opened their tasting room where you can get really delicious cocktails. Imagine my surprise when I heard last week that the Alaska Alcoholic Beverage Control Board upended the state's distilleries by approving new regulations that forbid them from serving mixed drinks. However, it would be possible to supply the ingredients for the drinks, only that the customers would have to mix the drinks themselves. Now this is utterly ridiculous, to be phrase it nicely. Stronger wording is actually be warranted.

The distillery in downtown Fairbanks, and those in other locations in Alaska, add tremendously to the attraction and flair of the cities and towns. They are locally owned and operated, sell local products, and support the local economy. I know the people who created the downtown Fairbanks distillery. They invested a lot of money and even more time to create this new business, and by the way, provide jobs for those who work there. Apparently the a board member of the AABC B is afraid that distillery tasting rooms become more like a bar. Well, they are not bars. They are nicer! He should visit one before he makes this assumption. So, in the opinion of the AABC B I should go to a bar and get my alcoholic mix drink there, most likely composed completely out of products NOT made in Alaska. Makes total sense to me. NOT!!!

To summarize my humble opinion, I do strongly support House Bill No. 269 in order to amend AS 04.11.170 and let Alaska distilleries continue to serve mix drinks on their premises.

Thank you very much for your consideration>

Sincerely,

Jochen Mezger
1745 Reed Circle
Fairbanks, Alaska
99709 USA

From: tamar harrison
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Tasting rooms
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 10:53:12 AM

To whom it may concern,

First of all Thank you for your hard work and consideration. I live in Skagway, and the local small distillery opened this summer. It is a great small business run by a local family, and it provides a different atmosphere for both tourists and locals. With the current economic situation it is hard enough for small businesses to get going in Alaska, let's not make it harder. Please allow them to continue to serve mixed drinks in their tasting rooms.

Thank you again

Tamar Harrison

From: will@irwindigital.com
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Testimony in regards to HB269
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 8:33:37 AM

Good Morning,

I'm writing this letter in support of Rep. Tuck's House Bill 269. I find it highly unfortunate that a small grey area in codified language has turned into such a political circus and believe that Rep. Tuck's bill is the right way towards resolution on this.

Thank you,

Will Muldoon
9451 Patricia Place
Juneau, AK 99801
907-957-3065