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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4806
(907) 457-3282 • Fax (907) 459-3787
www.explorefairbanks.com

March 30, 2014

Labor and Commerce Committee
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature

RE: House Bill 309: An Act Relating to Distillery Licenses

Dear Representative Olsen and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Explore Fairbanks, the largest tourism industry association in Alaska's Interior, we support House Bill (HB) 309. Modernizing Alaska's distillery laws to allow for growth in small business and retail establishments will lead to enhanced tourism product throughout Alaska.

HB 309 allows small distilleries to provide onsite tours, tastings and limited direct sales, thereby providing more venues to showcase Alaska-made products, create jobs and support local economies. Lifting current restrictions allows these small businesses to add to their product line, offer a unique visitor experience and fully participate in Alaska's tourism industry.

As we have seen with "Alaskan grown" microbreweries and wineries, growth in local and regionally-based businesses adds to our state's special products and attractions for visitors.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (907) 459-3770 or dhickok@explorefairbanks.com.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Brown".

Paul Brown
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Hickok".

Deb Hickok
President and CEO



March 17, 2014

Toby Foster
Founder/ CEO

www.alaskadistillery.com

[Facebook.com/ AlaskaDistillery](https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaDistillery)

[twitter.com/ AK_Distillery](https://twitter.com/AK_Distillery)

Dear Alaska Legislature,

Alaska Distillery fully supports HB309. The changes and additions to existing legislation will allow Alaska Distillery and other Alaska based distilleries to engage in commerce in a more equitable and profitable manner.

Best Regards,

Toby Foster
CEO & Founder
Alaska Distillery





ALASKA FARM BUREAU, INC.

Bryce Wrigley, President
bjwrigley@gmail.com

Jane Hamilton, Executive Director
janehamilton99737@yahoo.com

March 27, 2014

Representative Chris Tuck
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street
State Capitol, Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Tuck,

The Alaska Farm Bureau supports HB-309 relating to distillery licenses.

We feel that the distillery industry should be treated equally with the brewery and winery industries and their statutes.

The distillery industry is a growing in Alaska and is another use for Alaska's agricultural crops.

Agriculture benefits greatly from farm tours and providing samples of vegetables, berries and value added products to those who visit our farms and ranches. We can understand the desire and advantages of distilleries being able to serve samples of their products to potential customers visiting their distillery as well. Their customers should be able to purchase product on site as they visit or tour the facilities as well.

There is not a lot of time left in this legislative session. We support you and your colleagues in passing legislation to assist the distillers in promoting and selling their products in this growing industry.

For the Alaska Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Jane E. Hamilton
Executive Director



March 15, 2014

Bare Distillery Alaska, LLC.
6310 A St.
Anchorage AK, 99518
(907) 440-0569
kyle@baredistillery.com

To The Alaska Legislature:

We at Bare Distillery Alaska, LLC. fully support the version of HB309 regarding the ability for Alaskan based distilleries to operate in a fashion that supports their craft. This is more in line with existing brewery and winery standards, and gives our businesses the opportunity to grow to create more jobs, allow for larger volume, and provide sustained growth in our economy. We support this bill, and look forward to working together to create a stronger economy and more jobs for Alaskans!

Thank you,

Kyle Ryan
President and Founder
Bare Distillery Alaska, LLC.



To: The Alaska State Legislature

From: The Brewers Guild of Alaska
James Roberts, Executive Director

Subject: Support of HB 309: The Distillery Bill

March 25, 2014

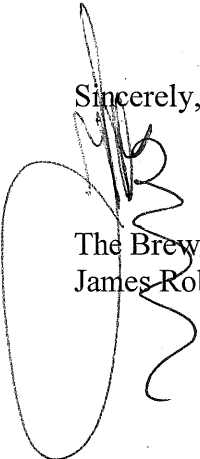
Honorable Alaska State Legislature,

Like craft brewing, distilling in the state of Alaska employs Alaskans, creates businesses and contributes to our local Alaska economy. Distilleries in Alaska are producing world class local products that are becoming recognized and sought after globally.

The passage of HB 309 will allow distillers to properly market their products and better engage their consumers. This is especially true with Alaska's rich tourism market. Like all small scale artisans, our distillers want to provide our visitors with a unique Alaska experience that shows what we're all about.

The Brewer's Guild of Alaska respectfully urges you to support HB 309; it's pro-business and pro-Alaska.

Sincerely,



The Brewers Guild of Alaska
James Roberts, Executive Director



Haines Chamber of Commerce

"Working Together to Build Business & Community"

219 Main Street, Suite 14

PO Box 1449 · Haines, AK 99827

907-766-2202 · 907-766-2271 (Fax)

chamber@haineschamber.org · www.haineschamber.org

March 5, 2014

2014 Board of Directors

Barbara J. Mulford,
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Takshanuk Mountain
Trail, Inc.

**Rodney Hinson, Vice
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Patty Campbell,
Secretary
Haines Cable TV/ Radio
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Roadbuilders

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Chilkat Snowburners

William Kurz, Director
Haines Port
Development Council

Stan Mazenkis,
Director
The Butler Did It

Kyle Gray, Director
First National Bank
Alaska

Thomas Ely, Director
Sockeye Cycle

Tanya Carlson,
Ex-Officio Member
Tourism Director

Shori Heaton,
Haines Chamber of
Commerce Office
Manager

Dear Sirs,

The Haines Chamber of Commerce writes this letter in support of HB309 Distillery Bill.

The mission of the Greater Haines Chamber of Commerce is to promote economic growth that contributes to the local quality of life by:

- * Advocating the interests of its membership to the community and government organizations.**
- * Facilitating cooperative programs that provide the resources necessary for business.**
- * Educating its members and the community on the importance of a sustainable economy.**

We are excited to welcome our own distillery to Haines and are encouraged by the expansion of business, manufacturing, and attractions within our community. This bill will allow for our local business to diversify their market, inviting visitors to their place of production, and offsetting higher costs related to shipping and local production in a rural community.

According to the Bill Summary, "Small distilleries in Alaska purchase local agricultural products, create jobs, support their local economies, create export products for Alaska, and have the potential to significantly contribute to the tourism industry in Alaska."

We are proud of Alaskan made products and view this bill as an opportunity for locally produced items to be showcased in their hometown from where they are made.

We encourage the passing of this bill to bring distillery laws on par with current craft beer and wine regulations.

Sincerely,
The Greater Haines Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors

HIGH MARK DISTILLERY

March 18, 2014

Attention to all Alaskan Legislatures:

We at High Mark Distillery, Inc. in Sterling/Soldotna, Alaska fully support HB309.

HB309- the distillery bill- will achieve a necessary alignment of industry standards that have been enjoyed by breweries and wineries throughout Alaska for many years, and now our distilleries.

HB309 will allow Alaskan based distilleries to grow by creating more jobs, allow for larger volume production, provide sustained financial growth in the Alaskan economy, and create new export products for the state of Alaska.

High Mark Distillery is a thriving one year old small business operating in Sterling, Alaska, a rural area of the Kenai Peninsula. We are a very tourist based community, dependent upon the ability to welcome tourists to our Tasting Room, offer them a tour of our distillery, and allow them to sample and purchase our Alaskan made products. HB309 will create this opportunity for all distilleries across Alaska to enjoy these necessary elements of the distillery experience for our customers.

Thank you for your necessary support.

Respectfully yours,

Felicia Keith-Jones, Owner
High Mark Distillery, Inc.



37200 Thomas St.
Sterling, Alaska 99672

P.O. Box 3334
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

OFFICE (907) 260-3399
CELL (907) 355-3492
E-MAIL highmarkdistillery@hotmail.com
WEB SITE www.highmarkdistillery.com

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March 18, 2014

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WEB SITE www.highmarkdistillery.com



KENAI PENINSULA TOURISM MARKETING COUNCIL

March 19, 2014

RE: SUPPORT OF HB 309

To The Alaska State Legislature,

On behalf of our staff, board of directors and membership, I am writing to voice the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council's support of HB 309.

In recent years craft beverage makers have become increasingly popular among residents and visitors on the Kenai Peninsula and throughout Alaska.

The ability of these small businesses to conduct activities such as tours, tastings and direct, on-site retail sales is vital to the continued growth of this emerging market sector.

The passage of HB 309 will modernize our state's regulation of distilleries and put Alaska's small distillers on an equal footing with local wine and beer makers.

Artisan Alaskan distilleries buy local, generate Alaskan-made exports and contribute to the tourism industry of our state. By passing HB 309 the 28th Alaska State Legislature has the opportunity to help level the playing field for these entrepreneurs as they compete with larger producers from out of state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shanon Hamrick
Executive Director



Port Chilkoot Distillery
PO Box 1248
34 Blacksmith St.
Haines, Alaska 99827
907-766-3434
www.portchilkootdistillery.com

March 17, 2014

Dear Alaska Legislature:

As owners of Port Chilkoot Distillery LLC, we support the HB309 Distillery Bill. We are a new small business operating in a rural area of Southeast Alaska. Our ability to contribute to the economy, create new jobs, and properly market our Alaskan-made products depends on us being able to welcome tourists to our facility and to provide them with an experience that highlights the ingenuity and creativity of small Alaskan manufacturers.

HB309 would allow us to compete with out-of-state imports and operate with the same abilities that Alaskan breweries and wineries already have.

Thank you for your support,

Heather Shade and Sean Copeland

Owners

Port Chilkoot Distillery

Haines, Alaska

Ursa Major Distilling
PO Box 81204
Fairbanks, AK 99708



907-455-6811
www.ursamajordistilling.com
sales@ursamajordistilling.com

March 16th, 2014

Alaska Legislature,

We are writing this letter to show our full support of HB309, and believe that it will have a very positive impact on our state.

This legislation will put us on par with the existing brewery and winery statutes, and will substantially promote growth in our fledgling industry. Growth in our industry means growth in many other Alaskan industries such as agriculture and tourism.

Distillers in Alaska are artists, crafting some very fine spirits that are beginning to be known on a national level. This legislation will help us foster a more positive, personal relationship with our consumers that is more in line with what the "Alaska dream" is all about.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB309.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rob and Tara Borland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rob and Tara Borland
Owners
Ursa Major Distilling
Fairbanks, AK