



April 28, 2022

Chair Moran and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

The House omnibus liquor bill (HF 2767) takes some steps to recognize Minnesota's consumers have changed and as a result we need to modernize our outdated liquor laws. Among the bill's provisions Minnesotans are given expanded options when supporting local brewers. **In addition, the bill acknowledges dwindling demand for 3.2 beer products by giving town baseball spectators an upgrade to strong beer and wine.**

**The omnibus liquor bill, however, is missing convenience for our neighbors who want to pick up a six pack of locally-brewed, full-strength beer when gassing up, or grabbing a local bottle of wine when picking up dinner.**

**Minnesota is far behind the rest of the nation with our 3.2 beer laws;** in fact we are the very last state to separately license 3.2 products. Those who live here have noticed, and so have out of state visitors. Also, many beer makers have responded to changing consumer demand and discontinued 3.2 products made just for Minnesota. **States around us and much of the nation have caught up with today's consumers, but we have not.**

It's hard to live in the past. It's hard to see Minnesota as last. It's hard to see convenience limited and consumer demand dismissed. And it's hard to have rules that stifle innovation and growth at local breweries, wineries, and stores. **But it doesn't have to be that way, and we don't need to disrupt the current three-tier system to make consumer-friendly changes.** We support an approach that leaves municipalities in control of licensing and the system of getting products in the cooler or on the shelf unchanged.

Allowing consumers the option to purchase full-strength beer and wine at food retailers such as convenience and grocery stores just makes sense.

**It's time to modernize our liquor laws and give busy Minnesotans convenience, choice and options where they shop.**

Let's modernize together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Nustad", written in a cursive style.

Bruce Nustad  
president