



March 25, 2024

The Honorable Zack Stephenson, Chair  
House Commerce Committee  
449 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Tim O'Driscoll, Republican Lead  
House Commerce Committee  
237 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Hospitality Minnesota, Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association, Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association, and the Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild Support for HF 4029**

Dear Chair Stephenson, Republican Lead O'Driscoll, and Members of the Committee:

**We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in with our support for HF 4029.** Hospitality Minnesota, Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association, Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association, and the Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild are the leading hospitality trade associations that represent bars, breweries, restaurants and food service across the state of Minnesota.

Last year's cannabis omnibus, HF 100, included the "five-hour rule", while well intentioned, created significant problems for our businesses that serve THC seltzers, causing many of them to withdraw these products from their menu. Under current statute, beginning March 2025 any server, bartender, or establishment that provides a THC seltzer to a patron within 5 hours of an alcoholic beverage could be held legally liable. This proves to be a significant challenge to servers, bartenders, and businesses, as they have no way to know if that patron had a drink at another establishment or was given a beverage by another patron.

These issues have also provided challenges for insurance companies, who are hesitant to insure businesses with this liability. This has only contributed to the number of our businesses who see the demand for these products but are not comfortable selling them under the current law.

HF 4029 provides language allowing servers to continue using their professional judgement to decide whether a patron is too impaired to purchase a THC beverage. **We strongly urge the committee to support HF 4029.** Thank you.

Sincerely,

Angie Whitcomb  
President and CEO  
Hospitality Minnesota

Bob Galligan  
Director of Government and Industry Relations  
Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild

Tony Chesak  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association

Paul Kaspszak  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association