



TEAMSTERS

Joint Council 32

TOM ERICKSON
President

MINNESOTA · IOWA
NORTH DAKOTA · SOUTH DAKOTA

BRIAN ALDES
Secretary-Treasurer

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Teamsters Joint Council 32, representing thousands of workers in the beverage wholesaling industry, we strongly urge you to support HF1735. This legislation is crucial to ensure the continued efficient and safe distribution of hemp-derived THC products, a process that our members and their employers are already successfully managing.

Currently, our Members, specifically those working for beer, wine, and spirits wholesalers, are efficiently distributing hemp-derived THC seltzers and similar products to licensed retailers across Minnesota. This process mirrors the existing distribution of other beverages, leveraging established routes, storage facilities, and delivery systems. This system is working well, and our members are handling these products with the same professionalism and care they apply to all other goods.

However, without the clear regulatory framework provided by HF1735, this system is at risk. If this bill does not pass, these beverage wholesalers would likely be forced to obtain full-strength THC wholesaler licenses to continue distributing these products. This would trigger a cascade of unnecessary and disruptive changes.

These changes would include:

- **Significant Regulatory Burdens:** Full-strength THC licenses come with stringent requirements for storage, transportation, and tracking, vastly different from the current beverage distribution model. This would impose unnecessary costs and complexities on existing operations.
- **Unnecessary Duplication:** The current system works. Our members are already safely and efficiently distributing these products. Requiring a separate, parallel distribution network is redundant and inefficient.
- **Increased Costs:** The additional licensing requirements and infrastructure changes would inevitably increase costs, which would ultimately be passed on to consumers.

HF1735 offers a sensible solution. It provides a regulatory framework that acknowledges the existing reality: that hemp-derived THC products are being safely and efficiently distributed through established beverage distribution channels. This bill allows this successful system to continue without unnecessary disruption.

Our members are committed to the safe and efficient transportation of all goods. HF1735 will allow them to continue doing what they do best, without the burden of unnecessary regulatory changes. We urge you to support this legislation to ensure the continued smooth operation of this emerging industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hannah K Alstead

Hannah Alstead
Political Director
Teamsters Joint Council 32