



May 2, 2024

Rhode Island Brewers Guild  
PO Box 6215  
Warwick, RI 02887

**Re: Letter of Support for House Bill No. [7277](#), AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION – SALES AND USE TAXES – LIABILITY AND COMPUTATION (Exempts from the sales and use tax the sale of beer and malt beverages at retail.)**

Dear Chair Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

The Rhode Island Brewers Guild is in support of House Bill No. 7277, to exempt beer and malt beverages from sales and use tax. The Rhode Island Brewers Guild is organized and operated exclusively for the purpose of promoting beers made in Rhode Island and the breweries that make them, facilitating technical collaboration between Rhode Island brewers and to be an advocate for Rhode Island Brewers in government and community affairs. By supporting this legislation, Rhode Island brewery retail operations will be treated as wineries and distilleries with respect to sales and use tax exemption, allowing our industry members to operate just as competitively.

Rhode Island is home to 37 actively-producing breweries with two in-planning. In 2023, over 100,000 bbls of beer were produced in the Ocean State by a force of 550+ employees and enjoyed by more than 1.175 million guests at RI brewery taprooms.

The Rhode Island Brewers Guild is very appreciative of this Legislature, strongly encourages a yes vote in this committee to further the success of the Rhode Island Brewery industry and cement Rhode Island as a home and destination for business, beauty and its breweries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nils Weldy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nils Weldy

Executive Director, Rhode Island Brewers Guild