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H8250 - OPPOSE

Chairwoman Shallcross Smith and Members of the Committee,

House Bill 8250 undermines Rhode Island's three-tier system by allowing distilleries to operate in off-premises retail-like environments through Class P events. This blurs the line between manufacturer and retailer, giving producers an unfair advantage over liquor stores, bars, and restaurants. It also weakens wholesalers by bypassing traditional distribution channels. Once established, this precedent invites further erosion from other supplier groups. Ultimately, this bill shifts the balance of the market toward manufacturers, harming small businesses and destabilizing the structured system that ensures fair competition, accountability, and consumer protection.

I respectfully urge you to oppose H8250.