



MCGRATH CLAMBAKES, INC.

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March 25, 2026

Honorable Mary Ann Shallcross Smith
Chairperson
House Small Business Committee
State of Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairperson Shallcross Smith and Members of the Committee,

I write to you in opposition to H-8250, which would allow Distilleries in the State of Rhode Island to obtain a Caterer's Class P Liquor License.

The Class P License is specific to caterers. As written, H-8250 would completely circumvent the mandate that a caterer with a Class P license have a Dept of Health licensed Commissary/Kitchen. Although caterers are required to purchase from Class A liquor stores, this change would allow distilleries to sell and serve their own product, bypassing the wholesalers and the retailers. In effect, this would make distilleries into mobile bar services.

Every day we contest with small bartending groups that offer their services for less than what we can, simply because they operate without a Class P license and don't adhere to the labor, licensing, and insurance laws that we must comply with. We compete with restaurants and hotels and country clubs that purchase their product from wholesalers, not Class A retailers. We have been asking for the ability to buy beer, wine, and liquor from wholesalers now for 25 years. The natural progression of this change will be that distilleries will offer mobile bar packages for special events and will undercut our own beverage service packages. The only leverage that we currently have against the small '2 bartenders in a car' and newly found beverage cart services, is that those organizations can not procure an actual liquor license because they are not an actual catering business.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you oppose H-8250.

Thank you for your consideration.

T.R. McGrath, President
McGrath Clambakes, Inc.