

Jill Cataldi

From: George Zainyeh <gzainyeh@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:17 PM
To: House Small Business Committee
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to H 5255 and Opposition to H 5324

The Honorable Chairperson
Representative Carol Hagan McEntee
House Small Business Committee
The State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 5255 Manufacturing and Wholesale licenses – Breweries & Distilleries – Opposed
H 5324 Manufacturing and Wholesale licenses - Opposed

Please accept this statement on behalf of the **Alcoholic Beverage Wholesalers of Rhode Island** respectfully opposing both H-5255 and H-5324.

This legislation does not recognize that agreements were previously made and legislation passed to increase retail sales by the Brewers without complying with the state statutes that previously existed for everyone else as it relates to alcohol sales. In fact there is an agreement that was made and legislation enacted to allow for the current level of sale that was already negotiated in state law now.

The three tiered system for liquor sales that exists today for public health and safety as well as regulatory enforcement should not be frayed at the edges. The basic structure which has checks and balances throughout allows that producers can sell their products only to wholesale distributors who then sell to retailers and only retailers can sell to consumers.

All the training and licensure that coincides with these levels also safeguards the health and safety of the public as well as ensures the requisite fees and taxes are collected for the state.

In short how much is enough for a “special exemption” for Brewers. If they would like to become retail vendors they should alter their business model and pursue the proper licenses to stay in compliance with the law.

Sincerely,