EXHIBIT 11
DATE 3/26/13
HB 616

March 26, 2013

RE: HB616

The Front
BREWING COMPANY

To the Honorable Members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

My name is Linda Caricaburu and I am the owner of The Front Brewing Company in Great Falls. I am writing to respectfully request that you vote in opposition to HB616 – a bill to revise licensing for brewers.

First, let me state that my brewery would not necessarily be affected by this law. We have no taproom, and all the beer we produce is sold wholesale. So my opposition to the bill is not about personal gain, it's about protecting a vibrant young industry in Montana.

Second, let me acknowledge that there may well be merits to sections of this bill. The bar/tavern/brewery landscape in Montana is shifting, and there clearly is a desire by people on both sides of this issue to revise current codes to better suit that landscape. HB616 is an attempt to start such a process.

My concern quite simply is that HB616 was introduced less than a week ago with virtually no prior discussion with or input from the industry that it most affects: breweries. There are some 40 small brewers spread across the state of Montana, and we'd like a voice in the laws that determine the future of our industry.

Please do not rush through a bill that has not been thoroughly vetted by the major stakeholders – and that may well have unintended consequences that could cripple our industry. I believe a more measured approach would be an interim study that brings all interested parties to the table. By working together we have a much better chance of crafting legislation acceptable to both the brewing and tavern industries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda K. Caricaburu

Linda Caricaburu
The Front Brewing Co.