



1900 10th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-452-9026

March 24, 2013

Honorable House Business & Labor Committee Members
P.O. Box 200400
Helena MT 59620-0400

Dear Honorable House Business & Labor Committee Members;

I had the distinct honor of serving in the Montana House of Representatives from 1999-2007. I served on the Business & Labor Committee for all four (4) terms, including two (2) terms as Chairman. From my own experience I understand your long hours and dedication to your duties. Thank you for your service.

The reason for this letter is HB 616, the brewery bill.

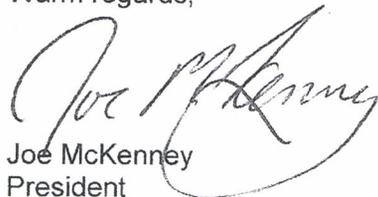
I served on the Business & Labor Committee in 1999 when our current laws were passed regarding breweries. The intent of the law was to allow breweries a "small and limited hour sample room" to assist in creating a market for wholesale distribution.

Through time the purpose of the law has been eroded and now many breweries are operating as taverns. This was not the intent of the law.

HB 616 recognizes the changes in the market place and allows a legal path for breweries to operate as a tavern if that is their desire. It is not a requirement, only a lawful option.

You will hear testimony explaining the bill in detail. I urge your support of HB 616.

Warm regards,



Joe McKenney
President