

Dear Regulatory Reform Committee Member Hugh D. Crawford;

I am writing to you to express my support of House Bill 4061, and to thank you for yours.

I am very active in the homebrew hobby. I am a member of the American Homebrewers Association (AHA) and the Kalamazoo Libation Organization of Brewers (KLOB) brewclub. The AHA represents and serves the 750,000 homebrewers throughout the country, the Brewers Association is their parent not-for profit organizations whose goal is to protect and promote American craft beer. The KLOB was established in 1993 and currently has just under a hundred members from the Greater Kalamazoo area.

House Bill 4061 is important to homebrewers and the craft beer industry in Michigan. The symbiotic relationship goes beyond simple recognition that we share the same language, work with similar processes and enjoy the fruits of our labor. Homebrewers are the de facto apprentices of the craft brew trade, and virtually every craft brewer learned some or virtually all of their trade informally as a homebrewers.

We are a diverse lot, representing all walks of life. We "Evang-ALE-ize" within our circles of friends and family and on-line about today's quality craft beers.

?Michigan homebrewers are the most ardent supporters of Michigan breweries.

?Homebrewers act as ambassadors for local microbreweries and brew pubs, not only purchasing locally made beers, but also promoting local breweries among their friends and family.

?Microbreweries and brew pubs support homebrew clubs with donations and financial support, and would like to offer space for meetings, competitions and learning events.

?By closely aligning themselves with homebrewers, commercial breweries are inspired by the creativity and passion shown by the homebrew community.

?Homebrewers are changing the nature of brewing, and striving to save the world's ancient brewing styles.

?Homebrew competitions are frequently judged at breweries in other states ? there is no reason to exclude Michigan breweries from hosting competitions.

Over the years a variety of microbreweries and brew pubs have offered

their support in a variety of ways, nurturing the bonds between the hobbyists and the professionals. Many of these establishments have indicated that they would host homebrew club events, but due to the current structure of our regulations, these offers put our potential hosts at risk. We are trying to rectify this situation by requesting the support of HB 4061.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Geoffrey E. Groff