

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan
130 State Capitol 75
Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Speaker Melissa Hortman
463 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Kurt Daudt
267 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Paul Gazelka
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3113
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Susan Kent
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2227
95 University Ave. West
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor, Lt. Governor, and Legislative Leaders:

As mayors who represent cities and towns of all sizes across the great state of Minnesota, we thank you for your on-going partnership to support our thriving local businesses that, in turn, support thriving local communities, jobs, and economic opportunities. In this time of unprecedented hardship and uncertainty for small businesses, we write to ask for your leadership and action in assisting our local craft breweries and distilleries for whom we are limited in our ability as municipalities to offer relief because of state regulatory restrictions.

While municipalities are able to suspend or modify local policies to reduce obstacles to and improve the viability of curbside pickup, delivery, and online ordering for restaurants and most types of retail establishments, we are not able to afford much flexibility to craft breweries and distilleries, nor to the establishments that sell their products for on-premise consumption. We ask for the legislature and the relevant state agencies to work quickly to take the necessary actions to temporarily allow Minnesota craft breweries, microdistilleries, bars, and restaurants to sell and deliver alcohol in sealed containers to consumers for safe off-premise consumption at home. These businesses are currently sitting on large inventories that they are legally unable to sell without such state action.

Minnesota is home to over 180 craft breweries located in 53 of our state's 87 counties. Taken together, these breweries last year had a total economic impact of over \$2 billion and support over 15,000 full-time employees and \$760 million in total labor income. Taken individually, each of these craft breweries is a small, independent business employing 3 to more than 300 employees.

While craft beer makes up less than 15% of the total beer sold in Minnesota, craft breweries are local businesses with an incredibly large and positive impact in their communities. Craft brewery taprooms and brewpubs draw substantial in-state and out-of-state tourism dollars that are invested directly into local economies, enhancing the appeal of our cities and towns to existing and prospective residents and workforce talent pools.

Please consider these necessary changes to help these businesses survive.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mike Wallen
Big Lake, MN

Mayor Emily Larson
Duluth, MN

Mayor Shep Harris
Golden Valley, MN

Mayor Kim Norton
Rochester, MN