



March 22, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Support SB 388 (Archuleta)—Beer Excise Tax Data

Dear Chairwoman Caballero:

On behalf of the undersigned beer manufacturers and representatives, we are pleased to offer our support for SB 388, which will provide statutory authority for the disclosure of beer excise tax data in a manner consistent with past practices of the Board of Equalization (BOE). The beer manufacturers and guilds represented on this letter represent a vast majority of California's beer production.

For decades, the BOE has provided Beer Manufacturers Return and Schedule information to the beer industry. The data released by the BOE has largely been unredacted including specific business information, but it has long anonymized information for individual taxpayers.

However, beginning in 2019, the BOE re-evaluated the release of this data and determined that they did not have sufficient statutory authority to provide the data unless completely anonymized. This decision has significantly limited the data's usefulness.

The decision to anonymize the excise tax data has made understanding industry trends significantly more difficult during a very disruptive time. Trade groups and individual breweries can use this data to benchmark their performance, understand market trends and communicate the economic value of brewery production at the local and state level. Economic impact studies at the local level require detailed information about production patterns that is challenging and costly to obtain without this critical information from the BOE.

In addition, businesses that operate in an environment of data where they can understand their market are going to be more successful. Moreover, having access to this information is critical

for the industry, and it should be released in a manner consistent with past practices. For these reasons, we gladly offer our support for SB 388.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate contacting Lori Ajax, Executive Director of the California Craft Brewers Association, at (916) 835-9796.

Sincerely



Lori Ajax
Executive Director
California Craft Brewers Association



Ryan Campagna
President
Sacramento Area Brewers Guild



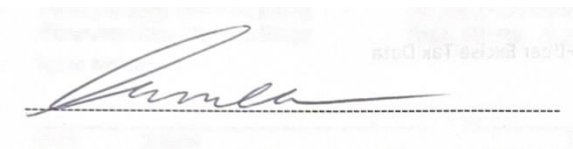
Paige McWey Acers
Executive Director
San Diego Brewers Guild



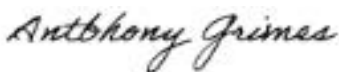
Simon Brown
Treasurer
Los Angeles County Brewers Guild



Joanne Marino
Executive Director
Bay Area Brewers Guild



Ian McCall
President
Orange County Brewers Guild



Tony Grimes
President
Central Coast Brewers Guild