

House Finance
04/11/2024 01:30 PM
HB24-1373 Alcohol Beverage Retail Licensees
Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Tracy Delventhal For themselves	I support HB24-1373. I Work in the wine and spirits industry and the passage of wine being sold in grocery is decimating our independent liquor and wine shops. This bill would keep spirits out of huge corporate stores and hopefully keep our independent CO businesses afloat during these incredibly hard times.
Alexa Stroker For themselves	I am for this bill because I strongly believe that fermented malt beverage and wine retailers should not be able to carry spirits in their stores. If grocery stores are allowed to sell spirits in stores, minors will too easily be able to acquire spirits. This would also further harm existing retailers and small businesses who own independent liquor stores and are relying on the sale of spirits to increase foot traffic.
John Tivnan For themselves	The recent legislation that has enabled out of state companies and corporations to take money and customers away from small privately and Coloradan owned businesses has done nothing other than homogenize product availability and selection, while also handing millions of dollars on a silver platter to companies that are already posting record profits, record share buybacks and already made entire nation's GDPs worth of money by virtue of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am a wine professional by trade and have been loyally shopping at independently owned Colorado Springs liquor stores for more than 14 years now. These independent business support Colorado brewers, winemakers/wineries and distillers in addition to keeping a diverse and international array of beer, wine and liquor on their shelves, while also working with small Coloradan-owned distributors *and* national distribution companies. Allowing national Grocery, Pharmacy and Convenience chains to carry all of the top brands of beer and wine has removed the necessity of going and supporting these small businesses, causing many to sell to out of state buyers or close up entirely. The house should recognize that Coloradan loyalty to our state's microbreweries, wineries and distillers has always been staunchly there; and for national chains to be able to move into this already tight and over-saturated market will ultimately cost more money than it makes as smaller competition will simply be squeezed out by these grocery chains and national suppliers. There is no reason that this bill should not be passed, small business should not have to fight uphill against Grocery and Convenience chains. It's a shame that we even have to have this discourse, the only party to have benefited from the recent legislation is these national chains; they do not hire more people, they simply make them do more work

	<p>for the same pay. Small independent liquor stores will call the police if product is stolen, grocery stores have to protect the company from getting sued so nothing is done to prevent these highly regulated products from falling into the wrong hands. I urge you all to protect the small businesses here; as we all benefit from their existence; America and Colorado are not owned by corporations; and they're ability to influence legislation when finding ways around financially contributing on their own end to the state and nation should be reason enough to pass this bill.</p>
<p>Timothy Bowen For Natural Wine Company</p>	<p>Dear Committee Members,</p> <p>The past year has seen a huge upheaval in the beverage alcohol industry in Colorado as grocery stores and large chains entered the market with the passage of Proposition 125. Small, independent retailers have struggled during this time, creating a ripple effect through the industry. Since most of the big chains prefer to handle product placements on a national level with the large national alcohol distributors, local distributors have been cut out of much of the grocery store market.</p> <p>Overall, allowing wine sales to chain stores has been a boon to national corporations and a serious hardship for independent Colorado businesses, both retail and wholesale. If spirits were also permitted for sale at grocery stores, that hardship would deepen to an existential threat to small companies that are already struggling to compete with multi-billion dollar chains.</p> <p>Please consider HB24-1373 as an opportunity to help level the playing field, or at east to keep it from further tilting in the favor of huge companies that already enjoy innumerable advantages over independent Colorado businesses.</p>
<p>Gretchen Bach For themselves</p>	<p>This bill will protect small businesses and a way of life in Colorado. It is such a blessing that we now have a plethora of local shops that we are able to choose from when it comes to purchasing alcoholic beverages. As a Colorado local, this is something I've taken for granted in the past. When traveling out of state, and seeing how other states do not have the options to support small businesses with their dollars, and only have the option to purchase big name brands at big name stores (all in the name of convenience) it makes me sad. There are no specialty options, just budget choices.</p> <p>I've worked in the Food and Beverage industry for most of my adult life. It's been a privileged to work with some of the most hard working people and be around food that is both sustenance and an art form. So much of those experiences depend on small local businesses, and the curated choices their employees make everyday</p>

	<p>when filling their stores. If this bill does not pass, then all of those businesses and the people they employ's livelihood will be in jeopardy, and Colorado consumers will be robbed of choice.</p>
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