



National Beer Wholesalers Association

Craig A. Purser
President and CEO

June 25, 2011

The Honorable John Mica
United States House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Mica:

The National Beer Wholesalers Association (NBWA) represents the interests of the 3,300 licensed, independent beer distributors that directly employ 98,000 hard-working Americans. As leaders in communities across the country, beer distributors continually seek ways to improve their ability to effectively and safely deliver their products. Transportation-related policy initiatives are very important to America's beer distributors.

Hours of Service regulations remain a key policy issue for beer distributors who deliver their products daily throughout local communities across America. Delivery drivers typically operate within a 100 mile radius making multiple delivery stops and returning to the warehouse at the end of the day to end their "on-duty" time. They also receive two consecutive days of "off duty" time per week. NBWA urges Congress and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to continue to recognize the difference between the type of drivers that beer distributors employ and those who drive across state lines for multiple consecutive hours.

As stewards of the environment, beer distributors continually seek energy efficient ways to better operate their businesses. NBWA supports H.R. 1380, the New Alternative Transportation to Give Americans Solutions (NATGAS) Act of 2011. The NAT GAS Act will create opportunities for beer distributors to use natural gas as a vehicle fuel, purchase natural gas-fueled vehicles and install natural gas refueling locations. These improvements will allow for cleaner and more efficient operation of beer delivery fleets and, encourage the development and use of alternative energy and benefit local communities nationwide.

Additionally, NBWA supports S. 510 and H.R. 2324, the Research of Alcohol Detection Systems for Stopping Alcohol-related Fatalities Everywhere Act of 2011. This legislation will provide funding for research regarding the feasibility, efficacy, potential benefits of and public policy challenges associated with the use of in-vehicle technology to detect intoxicated drivers. While understanding the continued need to ensure strong state regulation of the alcohol industry, NBWA applauds Congress' efforts to recognize that extensive research is needed to develop technology designed to help stop drunk driving while ensuring policies around those technologies are sound and effective.

Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to working with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Purser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Craig A. Purser
President & CEO