

**Testimony before the  
House Commerce and Labor Committee  
Re: House Bill 219, eliminating statutory limitations on Sunday sales of alcohol**

**By  
Mary MacDonald  
Executive Director  
Ohio Craft Brewers Association**

**June 8, 2019**

Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chairman Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony today on House Bill 219, eliminating restrictions on Sunday sales of alcohol.

As the Executive Director of the Ohio Craft Brewers Association, I would like to express our organization's support of this measure. The continued modernization of alcohol laws and removal of burdensome regulations will enhance job creation, expansion and innovation in a manufacturing and tourism industry that is currently flourishing.

I was hired by the association in September 2013 as their first executive director - another job created by the Ohio craft brewing industry! At that time, there were approximately 60 operating breweries in the state, employing hundreds of people. Fast forward to 2019: Ohio is home to more 300 craft breweries that directly employ more than 6,000 Ohioans and support another 2,200 jobs in related industries. This phenomenal growth is due in large part to the on-premises sales rights conferred to A1C brewery license holders.

Consumers have spoken: enjoying a beer direct from the source, as fresh as possible and served by knowledgeable, enthusiastic people has raised the bar for customer experience and serves to educate the public about the vast options in the beer market. These experiences, in turn, raise demand for Ohio-made craft beer at restaurants, bars, supermarkets and bottle shops. Ohio's craft breweries are the engine of the new beer economy, generating \$967 million in economic impact in 2018.

That economy also includes a new and robust interest in beer tourism. Tens of thousands of people use resources like the Ohio Craft Brewers Association's mobile app – Ohio On Tap – and regional brewery passports issued by visitors bureaus to guide them through the state's 300 craft breweries. Beer tourists are not only spending their time and money at the breweries, but also at local restaurants, hotels and attractions. Tourism as a whole generates \$44 billion toward the Ohio economy, and beer tourism is a quickly growing sector in that industry.

However, the current law puts an undue restriction on alcohol sales on Sundays, a day when many Ohioans and visitors from out-of-state are likely to be traveling. This has a stifling effect on small businesses like breweries, restaurants, bars and retail shops who rely on alcohol sales for their livelihood. Ohio does not impose similar restrictions on other tourism attractions – imagine if Cedar Point, Kings Island and other amusement parks were required to obtain a special license to operate on Sundays!

Restrictive regulations like the additional Sunday sales D6 permit – or a costly local election to even be eligible for a D6 permit – can be a significant financial burden to a small, family-owned business. Lifting these restrictions via this legislation would not only be a boon to Ohio’s beer, wine and spirits producers, but would level the playing field for retail permit holders across the state.

The Ohio Craft Brewers Association urges this committee to vote for House Bill 219 and remove the statutory limitations on the Sunday sales of alcohol. This common sense measure to more accurately reflect the modern beer industry and tourism economy will play a substantial role in the continued growth of both.

Thank you for your time today and for your continued support of Ohio’s craft brewing industry. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [mary@ohiocraftbeer.org](mailto:mary@ohiocraftbeer.org) with any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a faint, repeating watermark of the name "Mary MacDonald" in a smaller font.

Mary MacDonald  
Executive Director  
Ohio Craft Brewers Association