

MadTree Brewing Co.  
5164 Kennedy Ave  
Cincinnati, OH 45213  
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To whom it may concern,

Since 2002, the legal limit for the sale of beer in Ohio has been 12% alcohol by volume. While this allows for the sale of the majority of beer in the craft category, this limits the sale and production of a handful of very special beers such as Dogfish Head World Wide Stout & 120 Minute IPA, Goose Island Bourbon County Brand Stout, and Evil Twin Molotov Cocktail IPA within the state of Ohio.

I am in favor of relaxing this law and raising the limit to 21% ABV for several reasons. First, as an Ohio taxpayer, business owner, and resident, I would rather fellow Ohioans purchase from local bottle shops and beer outlets. I do not mind taking a trip to Kentucky to find one of these specialty beers, but I much prefer shopping local to support my community. Supporting the local economy generally encourages local prosperity and reduces environmental impact.

Second, as a Cincinnati brewery, a 12% ABV limit can artificially limit the flexibility and craftsmanship that comes with designing a beer. Though we do not currently produce a beer over 11.5%, I do not want to see MadTree or any other Ohio brewery at a competitive disadvantage in the industry. States such as Kentucky, Indiana, and Michigan do not have the same low limit for beer.

As with everything, there are two sides that must be considered. Overconsumption and underage drinking are always a concern. However, high alcohol beers generally have a higher barrier to entry for underage drinkers simply based on the cost of the product. High alcohol beers also tend toward stronger and bolder flavors which make them difficult to quickly consume.

As a brewer, consumer, and Ohio taxpayer, I am in favor of raising the 12% ABV ceiling to 21%. The craft of beer making is not about drunkenness or overconsumption; it is about the craft, the community, and the art of brewing.

Thanks,

Kenny McNutt  
MadTree Brewing Co.  
kenny@madtreebrewing.com