



*Fifty West Brewing Company*

7668 Wooster Pike

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Dear Senate President Huffman,

My name is Bobby Slattery, and I am the owner of Fifty West Brewing Company, a craft brewery located in Hamilton County, Ohio. For over 12 years, we have been proud to serve the Ohio community. What started as a small, family-owned business focused on educating people about craft beer has now grown to serve nearly 1,000,000 customers across southern Ohio in 2025.

Over the past year, we have introduced Delta-9 hemp-based beverages at our taproom. Due to overwhelming customer demand, we recently became licensed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture to manufacture and sell our own hemp-infused THC beverages. These products undergo third-party lab testing to ensure they meet the required THC limits set by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Additionally, we adhere to Ohio Liquor Control Commission guidelines, ensuring these products are only sold to customers over the age of 21. Through this experience, we've witnessed firsthand how hemp-based beverages are filling a critical gap for consumers seeking a safe, regulated alternative to alcohol.

As a board member of the Ohio Craft Brewers Association, I want to highlight the significant impact the craft beverage industry has on our state. Ohio is home to over 400 craft breweries, employing 40,000 to 50,000 people statewide. These businesses are a vital part of our local economy.

However, many craft breweries are struggling, facing a downturn in the industry and seeking alternative ways to stay afloat. The substantial investment in brewing equipment can be repurposed to manufacture and produce hemp-infused beverages, creating new revenue streams and job opportunities in a safe and regulated manner.

Looking at other states such as Minnesota, Illinois, North Carolina, and Kentucky, we see models where thoughtful legislation has allowed craft breweries like mine to diversify into hemp-based products. These states' frameworks have helped both small businesses and consumers by fostering safety and creating new economic opportunities.

While I fully support creating guidelines to ensure proper age restrictions, labeling, and testing, I believe the language in Senate Bill 326 is overly restrictive and fails to address the unique needs of small businesses and consumers in Ohio. Instead of stifling growth and innovation, I urge lawmakers to adopt a more balanced approach—one that supports continued development while ensuring safe and responsible guidelines. I encourage you to consider language similar to that in the aforementioned states, which has proven effective in fostering both safety and opportunity.



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Thank you for your time and consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on future legislation that fosters both the growth of Ohio's craft beverage industry and the safety of consumers.

Sincerely,  
Bobby Slattery  
Owner, Fifty West Brewing Company  
Board Member, Ohio Craft Brewers Association