



May 14, 2025

Chairman Manchester, Vice Chairman Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

My name is Nick Sheets, the owner of Henmick Farm & Brewery in Delaware, Ohio. Thank you in advance for reading and accepting this testimony in support of House Bill 194, which seeks to amend Ohio's outdated Alcohol Franchise Law.

Under current law, once a brewery enters into a distribution agreement, that contract becomes nearly permanent, even if the distributor underperforms, lacks alignment with the brewery's brand or fails to represent the brewery. This is why Henmick has chosen not to sign with a distributor. Our brand is everything to us. It's not just who we are, it's my family's legacy, named after our more than 100-year-old farm where the brewery now stands. Relinquishing control of my brand without a fair and reasonable contract is not a sensible decision. We'd be distributing today if Henmick could sign a fair distribution contract.

House Bill 194 provides an exemption for breweries that produce fewer than 250,000 barrels annually. We want the opportunity for a fair contract and to use distribution networks while retaining control over the brand and reputation that we've worked so hard to build and maintain. We're asking that you give small businesses the flexibility necessary to succeed and continue investing in our communities.

I urge you to support the franchise law amendment to Sub Hb 96.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael (Nick) D. Sheets
Owner, Henmick Farm & Brewery
Delaware, Ohio