



Senator William P. Coley
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

December 4, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am Executive Director of the Ohio Craft Brewers Association and I would like the hearing committee to consider our perspective in support of the pups on the patio legislation.

Throughout Ohio, due to a combination of the creation great beer and true entrepreneurial spirit in action, brewpubs and breweries with taprooms have become more than just eating and drinking establishments in their towns; they have become community centers. Ohio's independent craft brewers have created friendly, accessible neighborhood gathering places. Places where by drinking beer that's locally produced and manufactured by community-minded people, patrons can contribute to local charities, celebrate family occasions, or just enjoy a delicious beer with friends after a long day's work. In Ohio (and in the United States as a whole) family and friends have come to welcome and include canines just as much as kids.

Seventh Son Brewing Company (Columbus, Ohio) offers the following testimony: "On any given afternoon in the summer, spring, or fall there are usually 3-6 people with their dogs on our patio. These people are regular, relaxed, pleasant customers and it could be argued that they stay longer and spend slightly more dollars based on the fact that they have their canine companion with them. We have also enjoyed some very successful dog focused events at our brewery such as Capital Area Humane Society adoption fairs. If the dogs, or the people, are not friendly, we can ask them leave (although this has literally never happened). If a customer has an issue/fear of dogs the dog owners have always been very understanding and accommodating. Put simply we do not ever have issues with having dogs on our patio and not having them there would hurt our business. Additionally, I see no health code concerns with well-behaved dogs (most owners don't allow them at the table and paws preclude food prep). I also don't really understand why this common sense legislation allowing the option of dogs on patios, as many major cities do, takes away the option of not allowing dogs for those who feel strongly on the other side of this issue."

The experience of Seventh Son Brewing is not unique to them. It is a scenario that plays out at the hundred-plus breweries around Ohio which host guests on outdoor patios. In the past 5 years Ohio craft breweries have grown in number from fewer than 100 to exceeding 250 today and the number of people they employ now exceeds 4,500 FTEs. Ohio craft breweries are helping to revitalized and bring visitors to small rural towns and downtrodden urban neighborhoods alike. The money spent at Ohio's independent breweries comes back to the Ohio economy in the form of equipment investment, jobs and wages spent in our communities. Help us keep this growth going by giving them the ability to choose individually whether having pups on their patios hinders or helps these small businesses attract clientele.

Sincerely,

Mary MacDonald

Executive Director
Ohio Craft Brewers Association