From: turnagainbrewing@gmail.com
To: CED AMCO REGS (CED sponsored)
Subject: Comment on NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON LICENSED PREMISES - OUTDOOR SEATING IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2023 9:51:09 PM

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To the members of the Alcohol Beverage Control Board

While we appreciate that the Board is considering regulatory changes which would allow outdoor seating in the public right of way, we are disappointed that the regulatory changes exclude major segments of alcohol retailers. As a brewery with a tasting room, our business is not eligible for outdoor seating under the current regulatory package, nor is it eligible under the existing "alternating premises" permit process.

As a part of the covid emergency, we have been eligible to apply for temporary outdoor seating and did so in a small area of our parking lot with great success. Customers greatly enjoy the opportunity to sit outside during long summer days and tourism traffic flourished when outdoor seating was available. This turned out to be hugely popular and now it is expected by the consumer! We experienced a significant drop in visits this past summer when there was a lapse in temporary outdoor seating permits. There were multiple phone calls daily asking if we had outdoor seating. Our current temporary permit for a licensed outdoor area in our parking lot will expire at the end of May, 2023.

Seeing the benefits to businesses and overall quality of life, the Municipality of Anchorage has since eliminated barriers that made temporary outdoor seating an impossible permanent option for my small business (parking restrictions, in our case). We had hoped this regulatory project would provide a mechanism for outdoor seating in our parking area, at least on a seasonal basis. If we are interpreting current regulations correctly, adding other license types, such as breweries, wineries and distilleries to the list of entities eligible for an AB-34 Alternating Premises Request would make this an option. It is not clear to us the public health benefit of currently excluding manufacturers with tasting rooms from the AB-34 process, but given growth of craft beverage tourism it seems like a logical fit for the intent of an AB-34 request.

In conclusion, we are requesting that the Board revise the proposed regulatory package to allow other license types, such as breweries, wineries and distilleries, to have outdoor seating in their parking areas on a temporary, seasonal, basis. Adding those license types to the list of entities eligible to submit an AB-34 Alternating Premises Request could be the mechanism to do so.

Thank you for your consideration

Mary and Ted Rosenzweig

Owners
Turnagain Brewing