

Sean Wilson  
79 Margaret Place  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
919-357-5797  
sean@popthecap.org

March 17, 2005

Dear Representative Hackney,

I am writing to encourage you to support the Pop The Cap movement to eliminate the limit on the ABV on beers in the state of North Carolina. Specifically, I support House Bill 392, an act to amend the definition of malt beverage in North Carolina. State law currently defines malt beverage as "beer, lager, malt liquor, ale, porter, and any other brewed or fermented beverage containing at least one-half of one percent (0.5%), **and not more than six percent (6%)**, alcohol by volume."

I would simply like that 6% limit eliminated from the law. **North Carolina is one of only six states to impose such a restriction**, which prevents importing, brewing and selling of one-third of the world's finest specialty beers – gourmet beers that are readily available in forty-five other states, including my home state of Virginia but not in North Carolina.

While I live in the Commonwealth of Virginia I do travel to the Outer Banks of North Carolina often. I find that I have to bring many of my craft beers with me as North Carolina does not allow me to buy beers over 6% ABV while I am there. I find it odd that I can go and buy a bottle of 86 proof Jack Daniels, but cannot buy a beer over 6% ABV such as Sierra Nevada Celebration Ale. In fact my brother and I voted down having our family Christmas in the Outer Banks because we would not be able to purchase many of the special Christmas and winter beers that are available in other states. I can honestly say that more than a few people I know have decided to vacation on the Eastern Shore of Virginia or Delaware due to the lack of specialty beers available. You do not make restaurants limit the fat content of dishes, restaurants and bars and stores are allowed to serve hard liquor at will, and some of us do not understand the reason. I am supporting POP THE CAP for myself and others like me that wish to come down to North Carolina and sample some of the best beers in the world even if they might be over 6 % ABV

Again, I ask that you support House Bill 392. Please vote to lift the 6% cap on beer in North Carolina and put an end to a Prohibition-era law that limits consumer choice, economic opportunity for the specialty beer industry, and revenue for the state.

Thank you very much for your time and for your service to North Carolina.

Sincerely,

James