

March 15, 2023

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2363 to

House Industry, Business & Labor Committee Members:

My name is Connie Boreson, my husband, son, daughter and I own the Busted Knuckle Brewery in Williston North Dakota. We opened January 10, 2021 and operate under the state's Taproom License.

In our two years of business in Williston our business has been impacted by not allowing people under 21 years of age into our Brewery. The demographic for breweries, as attested by the Brewers Association, is just exactly the demographic in Williston North Dakota; male, 28-39 years old and employed. What doesn't mesh is that many of the workers who are in Williston are now married with children.

Our brewery is structured like most breweries nationwide. We only serve the craft beer that we manufacture, we close at 10pm, we encourage guests to interact with each other to the extent that we do not have TV's in the brewery but instead have a cupboard full of games, a shuffleboard table and a weekly Trivia night. We lease out part of our building to Pit105 BBQ and allow their food to be brought into the brewery. We have seating for 197, large windows and creative lighting. I say all this to paint a picture, one that would certainly be inclusive of someone under 21 years old.

Williston is also a perfect town for tournaments. We have many great hotels and restaurants. And now Williston even has a brewery! We are conveniently located just .5 miles from the Raymond Center which hosts statewide tournaments for hockey, wrestling and basketball and right next to the Raymond Center is Aafedt Stadium which hosted the Babe Ruth World Series last summer. While we might have been able to serve people who are in Williston to watch their children play competitive sports, we found that families were not coming to the brewery because their children are not allowed to come in. The convenience of location and the draw of Pit 105 BBQ were both overshadowed by the fact that the children would not be able to come into the brewery, a huge loss of revenue for our small business.

I appreciate the efforts to make this change at the state level with SB2363 that will allow people under the age of 21 in the Busted Knuckle Brewery.

Sincerely,

Connie Boreson

Busted Knuckle Brewery Williston      406-724-7232