



Skaalvenn Distillery, LLC
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From : Tyson Schnitker - President of Skaalvenn Distillery in Brooklyn Park, MN

Regarding : SF 1865

Dear Chair Klein and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee

I am the founder and owner of Skaalvenn Distillery, a Minnesota distillery founded in 2014. I am writing to give my full support of the bill to allow cocktails and other alcoholic drinks to be served out of temporary mobile food vendor trucks/trailers.

Since our start in 2014 the food, beverage, and alcohol industry has changed multiple times. There was a boom at first where business was great, then since 2020 business has been steadily declining year over year and more breweries and distilleries are closing than opening.

For example, in the year 2024, more Minnesota distilleries closed than from 2014-2023 combined. Lawless Distilling, Stilheart, Royal Foundry, Twin Spirits, Pocket Square, Forge & Foundry are the names of the recently closed distilleries. All of the distilleries which have closed are smaller operations with a dozen or so employees—a clear indication that small family operated businesses are the most impacted by the current market. Unfortunately, I know of a handful of other local distilleries who are also struggling and are thinking about closing.

One of our challenges as distilleries isn't large business deals to make great profits, it's oftentimes the small profits of \$1,000 per month that makes the difference between an employee keeping their job, or losing their job, or the difference between surviving another month, or shutting down entirely.

Under current Minnesota law mobile food vendors are prohibited from serving alcoholic beverages. Caterers can serve alcohol, but one of the challenges of catering is the lack of an appropriate area to wash hands, store ice, cut fruit, keep things refrigerated—something that oftentimes exists in nearly every existing food truck.

Not only would this bill help the local food truck owners, it would allow distilleries to sell at some local fairs, markets, and neighborhood block parties—places where people oftentimes provide their own alcohol with no extra tax benefit to the community.

Passage of this bill would be unlikely to make anyone rich, or provide an unfair advantage for an industry as many food trucks are already owned by a brick and mortar restaurant. What it would do is provide an opportunity to small businesses to make that little extra revenue per month that it takes to keep jobs and keep the open sign illuminated.

Sincerely,

Tyson Schnitker
Proud employer of 12 fantastic residents of Minnesota