



October 3, 2019

Bob Klein, Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1600
Anchorage, AK 99501

sent via email: AMCO.regs@alaska.gov

Dear Mr. Klein and members of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce encourages the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to reject the definitions lined out in 3 AAC 304.390. We would support a long-term solution in which the legislature overhauls the state’s alcohol laws to protect businesses, their investments, and the progress that has already been made in this industry.

The recent definition provided in 3 AAC 304.390 does not align with our mission of creating a healthy economic environment for businesses. For years, the legislative and administrative leaders of Alaska have repeated the mantra “Alaska is Open for Business.” We recognize that when the private sector succeeds individuals and communities succeed. When business owners succeed their employees succeed. Narrowly targeted regulations that negatively affect certain niche industries, such as this one, create unfair disadvantages and create unproductive bureaucratic hurdles to an otherwise healthy and growing industry in our state.

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board is charged with controlling the manufacture, barter, possession, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the state. Preventing events like yoga or group paint parties, running races or meet-ups, business networking events or other types of gatherings is a clear overreach of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. The new definition of “other recreational or gaming opportunities” has nothing to do with the control of alcoholic beverages.

Distilleries and breweries have a robust set of regulations that already tightly control their products and the physical space from which they operate their businesses. Added layers of regulations that further restrict this niche industry will jeopardize the successes that could be realized by these businesses through the investments they have already made.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce is a business advocacy organization representing over 650 Alaskan businesses by advocating for a healthy economic environment and promoting the Greater Fairbanks Area as an attractive place for business and community. We look forward to productive dialog on this issue in the future.

Sincerely,

Marisa Sharrah
President & CEO

Rebecca Dean
Board Chair

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