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April 7, 2017

The Honorable John Frullo
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

RE: House Bill 2101

Dear Representative Frullo,

We write today to thank you for authoring H.B. 2101, allowing businesses to maintain their food and beverage certificates if up to 60 percent of gross receipts come from mixed drink sales.

In 2009, Lubbock County voted in favor of allowing mixed drink sales in restaurants. Since 2000, nearly 200 counties have successfully held elections to implement the same policy.

But as the business landscape shifts, so must public policy. With the sharp rise in alcohol prices and customers' willingness to pay more for premium brand alcohol and craft beers, the total amount of gross receipts for alcohol in many establishments is nearing the 50 percent threshold. The provision in H.B. 2101 to increase the threshold to 60 percent will allow for businesses to keep their food and beverage permits, avoiding a significant negative economic impact.

The Lubbock Chamber represents more than 2,000 businesses and nearly 80,000 employees, many of which stand to benefit from your leadership on H.B. 2101. On behalf of the largest business federation on the High Plains, we thank you for your service to the people of West Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddie McBride', written in a cursive style.

Eddie McBride, IOM
President and CEO

Cc: Chairman John Kuempel

