



House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee  
New Hampshire State House  
107 N Main StConcord, NH 03301

**Subject: Opposition to HB 529 as Currently Written**

Dear Members of the House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the New Hampshire Brewers Association, representing nearly 80 breweries across the state, I am writing to express our opposition to HB 529 as currently written. This bill, as proposed, raises serious concerns regarding quality control, sanitation, and the integrity of our products—issues that are fundamental to our industry.

As independent craft breweries, we take great pride in the meticulous care with which we brew, package, and serve our beer. Maintaining the highest quality standards is paramount, which is why we carefully control how our beer is packaged and dispensed. We ensure that service lines are properly cleaned, glassware is held to "beer clean" standards, and containers meet strict quality criteria. Allowing on premise licenses to fill growlers for retail sale—without brewery oversight—poses significant risks to product integrity and consumer experience.

Breweries already reject growlers that fail to meet cleanliness or quality standards. The idea that another business could fill a random container with our product, without our ability to inspect or control the process, is deeply concerning. We do not allow others to package our beer, nor should we be required to accept that risk. HB 529, as written, encroaches on brewery operations in a way that undermines our ability to protect our brand and our livelihood. Packaging should remain the sole responsibility of the manufacturer.

If the intent of this bill is to expand beer-to-go options, the only acceptable alternative would be to allow on premise licensees to sell pre-packaged beer, just as licensed retail stores do. However, we strongly oppose any provision that would allow on premise licensees to fill growlers with our product. While some breweries choose to offer growlers or crowlers under strict internal protocols, many—like us—have moved away from them due to the quality control challenges they present.

Key concerns with HB 529 include:

- No additional licensing or fees required for them to do so.
- No opt-out clause for breweries—meaning breweries would have no say in whether their product is used for growler fills.
- Raises significant concerns about sanitation and quality control, as breweries cannot ensure the cleanliness of the growler or the integrity of the fill.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to reject HB 529 as currently written. Breweries should retain full control over how their beer is packaged and sold to ensure the best possible consumer experience. We appreciate your time and consideration and welcome any opportunity to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

**CJ Haines**  
Executive Director  
New Hampshire Brewers Association