

FRISKE & HILLIARD

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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January 23, 2014

Senator Lou Correa
State Capitol, Room 5061
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Amending AB1425

Dear Senator Correa:

My office is in District 34 which you serve. I am writing to request your help in amending AB1425. This Bill, introduced by the Committee on Governmental Organization, according to its history, was intended to make it easier for home wine makers to donate their wine to charity for fund raisers. Unfortunately, the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control is using the language of the bill to eliminate events that beer homebrewers use to exchange ideas, recipes and to learn about the hobby from experts in the field. The premier event for my group is the Southern California Homebrew Festival (now planning its 24th annual event).

My homebrew club was founded in Anaheim in 1989. Our members are police officers, lawyers, teachers (elementary and college), public employees, scientists, and more. Our club joined the California Homebrewers Association to meet members of other clubs throughout the state and share information.

The California Homebrewers Association was incorporated in 1997, as a non-profit. It has approximately 2,000 members. Our annual festival, which is at risk due to AB1425, is held the first weekend in May, in the sleepy town of Ojai, California at Lake Casistas. We directly spend \$60,000.00 on vendors for the festival, and our members spend another \$40-60,000 in the local town over the weekend.

In addition to our festival, AB1425 would prevent the American Homebrewers Association National Conference from being held in California. This would be an additional 8 million dollar loss to the State of California if they have to choose another State. The AHA has tentatively planned their 2015 meeting in San Diego, California.

It is my understanding that Assemblyman Brian Nestande is working on amending the language of AB1425 to allow our festival. I urge you to co-sponsor this legislation, and to do whatever is in your power to prevent the ABC from misapplying your well intended law.

Sincerely



Albert Friske

(Founder LabRat Homebrew Society)

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