



H6056 – Support

April 8, 2025

Chairman Solomon and members of the committee,

I represent Craft Collective RI, a Warwick-based beverage alcohol wholesaler with a deep focus on craft beer. I am here in strong support of House Bill 6056, the proposed legislation to update the regulatory framework for hemp THC-infused beverage products.

I have been engaged in the hemp beverage space since 2019, when my company first began carrying CBD-infused seltzers in the state. Around 18 months ago, as the commercial hemp market evolved to include hemp-derived THC-infused products, I began a long, deep dive -- researching the category, joining trade associations, traveling to and learning from emerging markets in other states, and developing and advocating for proposals on how these products can be responsibly introduced into our existing regulatory structure.

Fortunately, Rhode Island already benefits from a time-tested, three-tier system for the distribution of intoxicating beverage products, where manufacturers, distributors and retailers each occupy important and distinct roles. This system ensures public safety, accountability, and consistent tax revenue, and it can and should be the foundation for regulating hemp THC-infused beverage products. Locally licensed beverage alcohol distributors and retailers are well positioned to serve as the vital link in a regulatory system that ensures only safe, tested, and accurately labeled products reach consumers of legal age.

As these THC-infused beverages explode in popularity, especially among younger legal-age consumers who are trending toward plant-based alternatives, it is essential that Rhode Island adopt a regulatory structure that keeps pace with consumer preferences while protecting public health.

Updating the Rhode Island regulatory framework to include THC-infused beverage products within the established beverage alcohol regulatory system is good policy and smart governance.

Passage of H6056 would ensure safety and compliance, provide tax stability, support Rhode Island businesses, and position the state as a leader in the responsible management of intoxicating beverage products.

Sincerely,

Adam Oliveri
Founder & CAO
Craft Collective RI