



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2765		DATE: 2/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID JACKSON		PHONE NUMBER: 314-406-2933	
REPRESENTING: HEMP BEVERAGE ALLIANCE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: EAPEN THAMPY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-673-5351
REPRESENTING: TORCH DRINKS		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHI HARNESS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-353-4188
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI BEER WHOLESALERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2302		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL R. GIBBONS		PHONE NUMBER: 314-650-5783	
REPRESENTING: TOTAL WINE & MORE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 115 EAST HIGH STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RON LEONE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-864-5189	
REPRESENTING: MPCA - MO PETROLEUM & CONVENIENCE ASSOC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 205 E CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERRY WOHLGEMUTH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-824-2935	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CRAFT BREWERS GUILD		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 7713			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65205
EMAIL: sherry@mocraftbeer.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 12:06 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Missouri Craft Brewers Guild represents independent craft breweries across the state that are committed to producing safe, high-quality beverages under strong regulatory oversight. Many of our members are interested in responsibly producing hemp-derived THC beverages, and they already possess the equipment, quality control systems, and compliance expertise required to do so safely. HB 2765 provides the clear, alcohol-style regulatory framework our members need to responsibly enter this emerging market—while prioritizing consumer safety, accountability, and Missouri-based economic growth.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: TYSON HUNT		PHONE NUMBER: 573-673-4961
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LOGBOAT BREWING COMPANY		TITLE: CO-FOUNDER & CEO
ADDRESS: 504 FAY STREET		
CITY: COLUMBIA	STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: tyson@logboatbrewing.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 11:16 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2765, which creates a regulatory framework for hemp-derived beverages in Missouri.

Logboat Brewing Company is an independent craft brewery based in Columbia. Since our founding, we have created Missouri jobs, invested millions of dollars into local facilities, and built a reputation for producing safe, high-quality beverages under one of the most tightly regulated systems in the country. We understand firsthand the importance of clear, fair, and enforceable regulations.

The hemp-derived beverage market is growing rapidly, but today it operates without consistent guardrails. HB 2765 provides a practical solution by establishing a licensing, testing, labeling, and age-restricted sales structure for these products. This approach protects consumers while giving responsible businesses a clear set of rules to follow.

As a licensed beverage manufacturer, we operate under strict production standards, labeling requirements, distribution laws, and tax structures. Any beverage with intoxicating effects should be held to comparable standards. HB 2765 helps create a level playing field, prevents unsafe or unregulated products from reaching consumers, and encourages legitimate Missouri businesses to invest in this emerging category.

Missouri's craft beverage industry has helped revitalize communities, support agriculture, create jobs, and generate tax revenue. A clear regulatory structure for hemp beverages will allow similar economic benefits to develop in a responsible and transparent way.

For these reasons, Logboat Brewing Company respectfully urges the committee to support House Bill 2765.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Tyson Hunt
Co-Founder & CEO
Logboat Brewing Company
Columbia, Missouri



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JOHN GRADY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-6290	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SLAPHAPPY BEVERAGE COMPANY LLC		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2405 STATE HIGHWAY K			
CITY: HERMANN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65041
EMAIL: jgrady@slaphappybeverage.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:03 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I submit this written testimony in opposition to HB 2765 as written.

This is my wife Kara's company. She is the founder and owner. We started our hemp farm and business together as veterans with the intention of doing what this country has long encouraged returning service members to do: bend our swords into plowshares, build something productive, and reenter civilian life with purpose. Instead, because of legislation like HB 2765, we have been forced to plow with swords again.

I am a combat veteran. I am a hemp farmer. I am a hemp beverage manufacturer and retailer. We opened deliberately as a non alcohol establishment, because hemp beverages are non alcoholic by law. The Constitution matters to me because I swore an oath to it, and because my ability to work, heal, and participate in my community depends on lawmakers respecting its limits.

HB 2765 makes it clear that hemp farmers, manufacturers, and retailers were not consulted. The structure and language of this bill reflect the priorities of distributors and alcohol interests, not the operational realities of hemp farming, manufacturing, or diversified hemp retail.

Regulation Yes, Means and Methods No

We support licensing and regulation through the Alcohol and Tobacco Control Division. Oversight is appropriate. What we do not support is regulation that departs from parallel alcohol statutes and instead imposes unique burdens that do not apply to alcohol itself.

The government is permitted to establish standards and requirements that businesses must meet. The government is not permitted to legislate the means and methods by which businesses must operate in order to meet those standards. HB 2765 does exactly that. It dictates business structure, distribution models, and licensing pathways rather than setting neutral, outcome based requirements.

That is not regulation. That is the government picking winners and losers, which the Missouri Constitution forbids.

Equal Protection and Forced Alcohol Licensing

HB 2765 raises equal protection concerns under Article I Section 2 of the Missouri Constitution by treating hemp businesses differently based solely on whether they hold alcohol licenses, even though hemp beverages are non alcoholic by law. Conditioning lawful hemp commerce on participation in an alcohol licensing system, while not applying parallel requirements to alcohol itself, lacks a rational basis and results in arbitrary and punitive treatment. Especially for those who wish to preserve a non-alcoholic establishment.

Constitutional and Statutory Conflicts

HB 2765 directly conflicts with 7 U.S.C. §1639o, where Congress legalized hemp and hemp derivatives containing less than 0.3 percent delta 9 THC. The bill attempts to restrict federally lawful hemp derivatives through state statute without constitutional authority.

The bill also conflicts with Article XIV of the Missouri Constitution, which explicitly distinguishes hemp from marijuana. The legislature does not have authority to convert hemp into alcohol or marijuana by statute.

Several provisions violate Article III Section 40(30) by creating special laws that economically favor liquor interests and wholesalers at the expense of small hemp farmers and manufacturers.

HB 2765 delegates excessive discretionary power to regulators without clear standards, violating Article II Section 1 separation of powers and the procedural requirements of Chapter 536.

The labeling, branding, and marketing restrictions violate the First Amendment and Article I Section 8 of the Missouri Constitution by imposing vague and subjective limits on lawful commercial speech that invite selective enforcement and are not in conformance with TTB standards.

The inventory forfeiture provisions violate Article I Section 26, Missouri's takings clause, by allowing the destruction of lawful inventory without compensation or adequate due process.

Residency requirements and warrantless vehicle inspections violate the Dormant Commerce Clause and fundamental Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Economic Harm and Veteran Impact

HB 2765 would prohibit our growth and prevent us from selling our other lawful hemp products, even though our Hemporium was built as a diversified hemp business. Hemp businesses do not operate in beverage only silos. This artificial fragmentation demonstrates that the bill was not written by people who actually farm, manufacture, or retail hemp.

More importantly, this work matters beyond economics. I work alongside my wife because she is the boss, and because she recognizes that meaningful work is one of the most effective ways to prevent the isolation many veterans experience after service. This business is part of how I remain connected, engaged, and grounded in my community.

HB 2765 threatens to take that away, not for public safety, but because of language that disregards the people it affects.

I previously testified in support of hemp beverages in the Senate with constitutional caveats. Those caveats were ignored. I now testify on the record in opposition to HB 2765 unless the sponsor is willing to pause, expand the bill to include all hemp products, and engage in meaningful consultation with actual hemp farmers, manufacturers, and retailers, not just alcohol distributors.

We followed the law when the government told us hemp was legal in 2014 and reaffirmed it in 2018. We invested, complied, and built something real.

This bill punishes us for believing the law meant what it said.

That is unconstitutional.

That is unjust.

And it should not pass as written.

Respectfully submitted,

John Grady



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KARA GRADY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-6290	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: SLAPHAPPY BEVERAGE COMPANY LLC , SLAPHAPPY HEMPORIUM		TITLE: OWNER	
ADDRESS: 2405 HIGHWAY K			
CITY: HERMANN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65041
EMAIL: Kgrady@slaphappybeverage.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/11/2026 10:13 AM	
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I am a Navy veteran and the founder of Slaphappy Beverage Company and the Slaphappy Hemporium. My husband John and I built our farm and store to serve our community, not special interests.

Every week, veterans and seniors walk through our door looking for sleep, pain relief, and a way to manage anxiety without alcohol or stronger pharmaceuticals. Many of them would never step foot in a dispensary. Some would not even enter a traditional CBD store. They come to us because we are welcoming, transparent, and focused on the entire hemp plant, not trends or intoxication.

We also serve people who have intentionally replaced alcohol with hemp beverages as a risk reduction choice or a long-term health decision. These are parents, retirees, working adults, and veterans who want to feel better without damaging their bodies. HB 2765 would cut them off, not because they are doing anything wrong, but because the law would push hemp into a system that does not fit who we serve or how we operate.

Our store was built as a non alcohol space on purpose. Forcing hemp into an alcohol framework does not protect the public. It limits access, raises barriers, and removes safe alternatives for people who are already trying to make better choices.

As a Navy veteran, I did not serve this country so the government could selectively apply rights or decide which lawful businesses deserve to exist. I served because I believe the Constitution protects equal treatment under the law, and because rights are bestowed by God, not granted by government convenience.

HB 2765, as written, harms the very people we serve. It narrows access instead of expanding safer options. It removes choice from those who need it most.

That is not right.
 And it is not who we should be as a state.

Respectfully submitted,
 Kara Grady



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/10/2026 1:18 PM	

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I support Missouri’s hemp economy and reasonable consumer-safety regulation.

However, I oppose House Bill 2765 as written because it embeds unconstitutional protectionism, conflicts with federal hemp frameworks, and creates an unstable regulatory system that will invite immediate litigation and jeopardize compliant hemp businesses.

First, HB 2765 imposes a residency and ownership mandate on hemp beverage wholesalers requiring majority Missouri residency and a multi-year residency history.

This is discriminatory economic regulation that burdens out-of-state participants and is presumptively unconstitutional under the dormant Commerce Clause.[1] A hemp program that can only function by excluding nonresidents is not a public-safety measure; it is market protection by statute.

Second, the bill prohibits wholesaling or retailing hemp beverage products manufactured outside the United States. States may regulate safety standards, labeling, and testing, but they generally may not impose origin-based barriers that interfere with interstate and foreign commerce.[2] This provision invites federal constitutional challenge and undermines Missouri’s credibility as a lawful regulator.

Third, HB 2765 risks conflicts and confusion with federal hemp definitions by creating overlapping and inconsistent categories for hemp plant parts, derivatives, concentrates, and cannabinoids, while regulating consumer products by milligrams per serving rather than the federal dry-weight delta-9 THC standard.[3] Vague or internally inconsistent definitions in a criminal-penalty statute raise serious due-process concerns and encourage selective enforcement.[4]

Fourth, the bill includes a rulemaking “nonseverability” trigger tied to Chapter 536 legislative review powers. That structure threatens to invalidate the entire regulatory framework if separate constitutional litigation affects legislative rule-review mechanisms, creating uncertainty for businesses attempting good-faith compliance.[5] Missouri should not enact regulatory systems designed to self-destruct.

Missouri can regulate hemp beverages responsibly. But HB 2765, as drafted, is legally vulnerable, economically distortive, and will harm the very hemp operators it claims to regulate.

I respectfully urge the committee to reject HB 2765 as written and replace it with a constitutionally neutral framework centered on testing, labeling, youth-access controls, and uniform enforcement

standards.

FOOTNOTES

[1] U.S. Const. art. I, §8, cl. 3; *Tennessee Wine & Spirits Retailers Ass'n v. Thomas*, 588 U.S. 504 (2019) (striking down durational residency requirement for alcohol retail licensing; discriminatory residency rules violate the Commerce Clause even in heavily regulated markets); *Granholm v. Heald*, 544 U.S. 460 (2005).

[2] U.S. Const. art. I, §8, cl. 3; *Japan Line, Ltd. v. County of Los Angeles*, 441 U.S. 434 (1979) (special limits on state interference with foreign commerce); *Dean Milk Co. v. City of Madison*, 340 U.S. 349 (1951) (invalidating protectionist local barrier where nondiscriminatory alternatives exist).

[3] 7 U.S.C. § 1639o(1) (federal definition of “hemp” including derivatives/extracts/cannabinoids with delta-9 THC =0.3% dry weight).

[4] *FCC v. Fox Television Stations, Inc.*, 567 U.S. 239 (2012) (due process requires fair notice; vague standards are unconstitutional when regulated parties cannot determine what is prohibited); Mo. Const. art. I, §10.

[5] Mo. Const. art. II, §1; *State ex rel. Missouri Dep't of Nat. Res. v. Crouch*, 899 S.W.2d 838 (Mo. banc 1995) (separation-of-powers limits on legislative control over execution/rulemaking).