

**Alcohol Beverage Study Commission  
Public Comment Form\***

Name: Stuart Carter

Group represented: Free the Hops, a 501(c)(6) non-profit entity  
(if any)

Contact Information

Address: PO Box 660068  
Vestavia, AL 35266

Phone: 205 202 0323

Email: stuart@freethehops.org

Please provide any background information you believe to be relevant along with any supporting information or research you would like the Commission to consider along with this Public Comment Form.

**Please provide your specific thoughts on the following questions and use additional paper if necessary:**

What are the issues that affect your business/industry relative to the three tier system?

Free The Hops represents craft beer consumers. Our remit is to generally improve Alabama's beer laws to benefit the consumer.

1. Section 28-3-1-3 of the Code of Alabama defines beer as being no more than 13.9% Alcohol By Volume. Of the 50 States, DC, and Puerto Rico, only 9 restrict beer by its ABV. Alabama has the fourth lowest permitted beer ABV of these 9 states.
2. Section 28-3A-23-g of the Code of Alabama defines beer containers as not to exceed 25.4 fluid ounces. No other state has such a restriction.
3. Alabama is the only state that prohibits sale of beer-to-go from the brewery.

What solutions would you suggest to solve the issues you identified?

1. Restricting beer ABV to the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest permitted level in the country harms the consumer, harms Alabama's breweries by restricting what they can brew, and contributes to a regulatory framework that makes Alabama unattractive to breweries in other states considering adding facilities in the eastern U.S.. This limit should be removed entirely or drastically increased to make Alabama's beer laws competitive with the rest of the country.
2. No other state has a restriction on beer container size. This restriction should be removed entirely to bring Alabama's laws in line with the rest of the country.
3. We as consumers support the brewers' efforts to legalize the sale of beer-to-go from breweries and would enjoy being able to do so in the same way that consumers in every other state can.

Are there any specific issues relative to licensing that should be addressed in the law?