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Date: February 18, 2019 at 4:31:26 PM CST
To: "rob@visitflorenceal.com" <rob@visitflorenceal.com>
Cc: Michelle Jones <michelle@singinriverbrewing.com>
Subject: Alabama Brewery Modernization Act- Needs your help!

Rob,

The Alabama Brewers Guild will be proposing a bill this legislative session to help economic development with breweries in the state of Alabama. I thought it was important to give our local politicians and organizations information on the reason why the Bill includes so much. Also, a little background on the issues that are important to Singin' River and why. Once the Bill is introduced I would like to ask for you to contact our local legislators as well as any of your organizations lobbying groups and ask them to support this bill. This is a **REALLY big deal** for Singin' River as well as the Shoals ability to recruit breweries to our area. I respectfully ask for your support.

1. There are currently at least **10 economic development projects** in the State trying to recruit Alabama Breweries to their area. We also have been asked to set up other taprooms in the Quad Cities but unable due to the current laws. Wineries are allowed to have offsite taprooms but breweries are not.

2. We are also proposing to *simplify the taxes* on taprooms with a flat fee as well as reducing the taproom tax penalty. The Federal Government taxes breweries a flat fee while the State requires us to pay taxes based on 12oz pours. The different tax methods create confusion and unnecessary work. Also, breweries are taxed more than Wholesalers on the same beer or product. **Therefore, breweries are penalized for selling beer out of their local taproom.**

3. **Non Profits in Alabama have been denied special event licenses because a brewery owner was a member of the non profit.** Brewery employees and owners would like the ability to serve on charity and non profit boards just like wholesalers and retailers. The Guild supports a clear exemption for nonprofit organizations from the definition of "financial interest" for three-tier purposes.

4. **Many people have asked Singin' River why we don't have a restaurant or sell food.** The issue has always been the ability to be a brewpub. To make such a large investment in kitchen equipment, we would need the ability to be a brewpub. Currently, for us to become a brewpub we would not be able to "can" our product which is a majority of our distribution sales. The Guild is supporting an increase in production limits for brewpubs and allow brewpubs to package their own product for offsite sales. The Guild supports increasing the production limit for brewpubs and allowing them to package their products.

I respectfully ask for your support as well to ask others for support. I will follow up closer to time in case you have any questions or concerns as well as to give you the actual Bill number once it is assigned. The link to the Alabama Brewers Guild's website that includes a summary of the Bill is below.

<https://alabamabrewers.org/advocacy/>