

LB 403
General Affairs Committee
Online Comments of Chris Wagner
Project Extra Mile
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LB403 is a bad bill that continues the misguided deregulation of the alcohol regulatory system that protects public health and the state's ability to ensure accurate tax collection. It has been less than one year since LB1236 was enacted into law allowing ALL craft breweries to self-distribute up to 250 barrels per year to off-premises sites. The original bill was intended to only help small breweries that were struggling to get their products to market. This is what happens in Nebraska -- the alcohol industry asks and the Legislature provides. This is what I referred to during hearings on January 30th -- they keep moving the goalposts and our state needs you to say enough is enough.

According to 2021 data (<https://bit.ly/3JwM25T>), Nebraska's 63 craft breweries produced nearly 54,000 barrels that year. In allowing 250 barrels per year, LB1236 covers approximately 30 percent of all production in NE. If you were to pass LB403, that figure would increase to 315,000 barrels per year -- almost six times our state's total production and completely unnecessary.

Please indefinitely postpone LB403.