

Clydesdales at the Capitol



Horses brought in to promote state's beer industry

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There were some big visitors Thursday at the state Capitol — perhaps the biggest ever.

The Budweiser Clydesdales visited Lansing to raise awareness of the state's beer industry, which created more than 60,000 jobs in 2008, and to discourage a beer tax increase.

"Our industry is one of the only industries in the state of Michigan that's still doing well," said Michael Lasher, vice president of administration for M&M Distributors, Inc. He said any tax increase would have a dramatic effect on sales and on the industry.

The Michigan beer sector pumps more than \$5 billion into the state economy every year and generates more than \$340 million in sales tax.

Lasher said the Budweiser Clydesdales "embrace the Michigan spirit."

Passers-by watched and snapped photos as a Clydesdale named Bud stood with a handler.

Horses Bud, Bud Fire, Jake, Curly, Mic, Bob, Elite and Sammy, made up the hitch that appeared at the Capitol from about 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Two other horses tagged along as backup.

All the horses' dark manes were



ROD SANFORD/Lansing State Journal

Impressive animals: A team of Budweiser Clydesdales appear Wednesday near the Capitol to raise awareness about the state beer industry and discourage a tax increase on beer.

trimmed and tightly braided, decorated with red and white ribbon and florets. Tails were cut short and tied with red and white bows.



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