

Petition drive kicks off the fight against a higher beer tax

Say no to more taxes; sign a petition at a brewery near you

EAST LANSING – The Michigan Brewers Guild today announced the launch of a petition drive and public awareness campaign to fight a higher beer tax that will hurt middle-class consumers and small brewers across Michigan.

“Michigan’s breweries are a success story, creating jobs and contributing to our economy,” Guild President **Scott Graham** said. “Michigan’s small brewers needs more support – not more taxes. This petition drive is a way for consumers and small businesses across our state to send a strong message to our leaders in Lansing: No new taxes.”

Petitions are being distributed to microbreweries across Michigan for consumers to sign as a way to voice their opposition to a higher beer tax. The petition, which will be sent to legislators, states that taxes eat up 44 percent of every glass of beer in Michigan.

The petition reads: “Lansing politicians should stop balancing the budget on the backs of the middle class. Enough is enough! A higher beer tax hurts middle class taxpayers, small businesses and Michigan’s economy. Say ‘No’ to increasing the beer tax!”

Michigan’s beer tax is the highest in the Great Lakes region and is more than 300 percent higher than neighboring Wisconsin’s.

The campaign also includes a flyer that shows a glass half filled with beer and the words: “For Michigan’s middle-class taxpayers, the glass is always half empty. Fight the beer tax increase. Call your legislator today!”

“Higher beer taxes will hurt Michigan breweries and small businesses, and it’s going to send jobs and commerce out of our state,” said **Bobby Mason** of The Michigan Brewing Co. in Webberville. “I’m proud of my workers, who pour their hearts and souls into building our company and our community. It’s wrong to balance the budget on the backs of people who work hard and play by the rules. That’s why we have to stand up to a tax increase.”

The Michigan Brewers Guild represents more than 40 members, including brewers, microbrewers and brewpubs.

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