



**BUSINESS & LABOR**

EXHIBIT NO. 3

DATE 3-22-17

BILL NO. HB 541

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March 21, 2017

Senate Committee on Labor, Business and Economic Affairs

Helena, MT

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to express my support for HB 541, expanding opportunities for the craft beer industry. This bill, if passed, will have far reaching benefits for some of the communities of Montana.

As a small business owner in Philipsburg, I have been witness to a town struggling to redefine and rebuild as timber and mineral resource opportunities have evaporated. While many have held out hope for some type of manufacturing to return with 'lunch pail' jobs, Philipsburg Brewing opened in 2012 and has been a cornerstone in Philipsburg's resurgence. As of late, we are experiencing a growth that is youthful and vibrant. The brewery has offered employment, community support, and has quickly become a part of the social fabric in the 'Burg. It is a unique, new component that offers something to many; the tourists, the families and the new community members.

We welcome the brewery and it's continued growth.

Please support HB 541 for the communities of Montana.

Sincerely,

Tom Rue