

# MAD RIVER

— D I S T I L L E R S —

January 24, 2017

House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs  
State of Vermont House of Representatives  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Vice Chairman Stevens, et al,

After speaking with Bill Cherry, founder of Switchback Brewery in Burlington, and John McCann, founder of North Branch Vineyards in Montpelier, it has come to our attention that there is a language correction necessary to the wording of Sec. 49 & V.S.A. 252 relating to special event permits.

Special event permits are the lifeblood of the Vermont craft brewing, spirits and wine industries, and as such, are vital to the category's continued growth and future success. They allow us face-to-face interaction with our consumers, tourists and beer/wine/spirits enthusiasts in locations outside of our regular facilities. Special event permits are a key component of both local and tourist marketing for all Vermont brands.

**Page 12 Section 33 Defines the special event permit, including selling by the unopened bottle.**

(33) "Special event permit" means a permit granted by the Department	8
of Liquor Control permitting a licensed manufacturer or rectifier to sell, by the	9
glass or by the unopened bottle, alcoholic beverages manufactured or rectified	10
by the license holder at an event open to the public that has been approved by	11
the local control commissioners.	12

**The draft of Sec 49 makes no mention of selling by the unopened bottle and reads as follows:**

§ 252. SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS	5
(a)(1) The Department of Liquor Control may issue a special event permit	6
if the application is submitted to the Department of Liquor Control with the fee	7
as required by section 204 of this title at least five days prior to the date of the	8
event.	9
(2) A special event permit shall be valid for the duration of each public	10
event or four days, whichever is shorter.	11
(b) A special event permit holder may distribute beverages manufactured	12
by the permit holder with or without charge, provided the beverages are	13
distributed:	14
(1) for the purposes of tasting only;	15
(2) by the glass; and	16

(3) in quantities of no more than two ounces per product and eight ounces total of malt beverages or vinous beverages and no more than one ounce in total of spirits or fortified wines to each individual.	17 18 19
(c)(1) A licensed manufacturer may be issued no more than 104 special events permits during a year.	20 21

**We propose the following clarification:**

§ 252. SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS	5
(a)(1) The Department of Liquor Control may issue a special event permit if the application is submitted to the Department of Liquor Control with the fee as required by section 204 of this title at least five days prior to the date of the event.	6 7 8 9
(2) A special event permit shall be valid for the duration of each public event or four days, whichever is shorter.	10 11
(b) A special event permit holder may distribute beverages manufactured by the permit holder with or without charge, provided the beverages are distributed:	12 13 14
(1) by the glass;	15
(2) by the unopened bottle; and	16
(3) for the purposes of tasting only; in quantities of no more than two ounces per product and eight ounces total of malt beverages or vinous beverages and no more than one ounce in total of spirits or fortified wines to each individual.	17 18 19
(c)(1) A licensed manufacturer may be issued no more than 104 special events permits during a year.	20 21

We believe that this change conforms to current DLC practices and avoids inconsistent provisions in Title 7, specifically relating to special event permits.

Thank you for your consideration.



Mimi Buttenheim  
President  
Mad River Distillers