



Smugglers' Notch Distillery, LLC  
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Chair McCarthy and Vice Chair Birong,

24-0299 is very important for Smugglers' Notch Distillery and for the Vermont Distilled Spirits Industry. When we first started our distillery we were issued the 164<sup>th</sup> Distilled Spirits Permit (DSP) in the US. Now there are over 2700 and growing every day. In Vermont our DSP number is 2 and with legislative help we have shaped our industry to where it is today and have grown the industry to over 25 Vermont Distilleries.

One of the key components to Vermont's Distilled Spirits Industry success is being able to sample and sell our products outside of our tasting rooms at special events. These special events allow us to connect with consumers, tell our story, and educate them about our spirits and Vermont. After Covid, we have seen consolidation of event venues/spaces that host events.

Many events are now being run from the Champlain Valley Exposition, where in the past they were at other locations in Vermont. As the statute is currently written we can attend 10 special events at one specific location. This restricts our ability to attend and sell at locations that host more than 10 events.

Champlain Valley Exposition Events:

Winter Renaissance Faire, Summer Renaissance Fair, Champlain Valley Fair, Made in Vermont Marketplace, Vermont Flower Show, Yankee Classic, Champlain Valley craft and antique Expo, Vermont Living History Expo, Vermont Holiday Market, Vermont Spring Market, Vermont Sci-fi and Fantasy Expo, Vermont Home Show, etc.

Our businesses should not be denied the chance for fiscal viability based on statute as currently written. Our special events landscape has changed and we want the ability to represent our distilleries, the Vermont Distilled Spirits Industry, and Vermont at locations that host more than 10 events/year.

Jeremy Elliott

President/Co-Owner Smugglers' Notch Distillery