



James Burns

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November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Ethan Berkowitz  
Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage  
632 W 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 840  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mayor Berkowitz,

Brown Jug is Alaska's first and largest retailer of fine wines, spirits and beer. Started as a family-owned business in the mid-1930s, Brown Jug now employs more than 250 Alaskans at our 16 Anchorage locations along with the other 5 throughout the State and Anchorage head office and warehouse.

As the industry leader, Brown Jug takes our responsibility seriously to ensure our stores are at the forefront of safety and compliance and being responsible members in the community. We continually invest in training and education of our employees to ensure that underage or intoxicated customers are not served.

As Alaska's largest alcohol retailer, Brown Jug is strongly supportive of efforts to address the chronic inebriate and homelessness issues facing Anchorage. Brown Jug believes that ALL package store operators should be equally responsible and operate under the same standards we do. We strongly support the 5% alcohol tax proposed by your administration on the sale of retail alcohol products with those proceeds going directly to support services such as homelessness camp responses and clean-up; cold-weather shelters and potentially fund treatment and rehabilitation supports and facilities.

Along the same lines, Brown Jug is participating in the Title 4 Rewrite efforts, which are aiming to update Alaska's Alcohol Statutes alongside public health and public safety interests. A comprehensive rewrite that brings the state's laws into the 21<sup>st</sup> century is important to address the balance between the alcohol industry and public health and safety concerns in Alaska.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed local alcohol tax. Anything we can do to assist you in getting this in place and ensuring that the funds are sent to help our City please just let us know. Brown Jug looks forward to working with your administration to find solutions that positively impact our communities and ensure that all alcohol retail stores are abiding by the necessary rules and practices that Anchorage needs.

Sincerely,

James Burns  
CEO  
Alcanna Inc

Cc: Anchorage Assembly members