



## Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association

17 East Cary Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Phone: (804) 783-2655

June 28, 2021

**VIA Email: [jay.withrow@doli.virginia.gov](mailto:jay.withrow@doli.virginia.gov) & [princy.doss@doli.virginia.gov](mailto:princy.doss@doli.virginia.gov)**

Jay Withrow, Director  
Division of Legal Support, ORA, OPPPI, and OWP  
Virginia Department of Labor and Industry  
600 East Main Street, Suite 207  
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Comments on Final Permanent Standard

Dear Mr. Withrow:

I am writing as the President and CEO of the Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association (VBWA) to respectfully comment on the Final Permanent Standard (FPS) and to request revocation.

The VBWA appreciates the tall task presented to the Safety and Health Codes Board last year and the difficulty in piecing together regulation on such a complicated situation.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, VBWA members and their employees have gone above and beyond the call to provide safe and responsible distribution of beer to the Commonwealth's restaurants, grocery stores, and convenience stores. VBWA members have worked hard to monitor and comply with the myriad of guidance, rules, regulations, and executive orders since the beginning of the pandemic. Now, thanks to the advances in scientific research on the COVID-19 vaccines and the hard work put in by Virginians to reduce and prevent the spread of COVID-19, the threat of the virus is at an all-time low.

The majority of VBWA member employees are now vaccinated against COVID-19. VBWA members and their employees continue to follow the revised and current CDC guidelines which have been relaxed significantly, especially for vaccinated individuals. Instances of community and workplace spread are minimal to non-existent in the Commonwealth.

The FPS is inflexible and unable to account for the changing dynamic of the virus and the revised CDC recommendations that have issued. In his letter to Safety and Health Codes Board Chairwoman Milagro Rodriguez on June 14<sup>th</sup>, Governor

Northam states similarly that the FPS “unfortunately does not evolve with the improving conditions across the Commonwealth.”

Accordingly, the VBWA respectfully requests the FPS be revoked. Thank you for your consideration and should you have any questions or if the VBWA may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Boykin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Phillip Boykin  
President and CEO

cc: W. Scott Johnson, Esquire  
Benjamin H. Traynham, Esquire