

Testimony before the House Republican Policy Committee  
Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 10:30am - noon  
Wallenpaupack Brewing Company, Hawley, Pa  
Opening remarks by:  
Adam Harris, Executive Director  
Brewers of Pa

Good morning Chairman Causer, Representative Fritz and members of the House Republican Policy Committee. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend this hearing and to discuss with us issues relating to an industry that we are extremely passionate about. It is my pleasure to open this hearing today with a brief history of our state association – The Brewers of Pa (BOP) – as well as a recap of the tremendous growth of Pennsylvania craft beer that has occurred over the past several decades.

I will be brief because this isn't really my story to tell – this is the story of amazing entrepreneurs like the two seated next to me – Fred Maier from Susquehanna Brewing Co. (and President of the BOP) and Becky Ryman from right here at Wallenpaupack Brewing Co. It is their leadership – and others like them – that allows the craft beer industry to grow and prosper in Pennsylvania.

Our association formed in late 2010 at a time when there were less than 100 breweries in Pennsylvania and only a few dozen joined our association the first year of existence. Since that time we have grown to

over 200 brewery members and represent breweries of all shapes and sizes – from large scale production breweries that mostly package and keg their beer to small scale brewpubs that serve fresh beer directly to consumers by the pint.

Pennsylvania truly is a titan in the craft beer world. According to the Brewers Association, the national trade association out of Boulder, Colorado, Pennsylvania ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in both overall production (with over 3.2 million barrels of beer brewed) and number of breweries (486).

And why exactly have we become a national leader in the craft beer world? To me it comes down to 3 key factors:

- ✓ Great entrepreneurs – people who could be successful in any number of business ventures but who choose the craft beer world because of a passion to make a great product as close to the customer as possible
- ✓ Great laws! And for that we say thank you ... and thank you for coming today to listen to our suggestions to keep this industry moving forward
- ✓ Great consumers – people who appreciate the extra time, effort and cost that it takes to make a quality product that benefits their local community

So now it is my pleasure to introduce two of the amazing entrepreneurs that I just referenced. Fred Maier is Vice President at his family-owned business, Susquehanna Brewing Co. in Pittston, Pa. And Becky Ryman, who is a CPA by trade, as well as the owner of the beautiful brewery we are in right now.