

TC Cycle Pub
PO Box 4223
Traverse City, MI 49685

Testimony of the TC Cycle Pub
IN SUPPORT OF HB 5408 AND 5409,
COMMERCIAL QUADRICYCLE BILLS

BEFORE THE HOUSE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

September 30, 2014

Kevin Farron, Co-Owner, *TC Cycle Pub*

Dear Elected Officials:

My name is Kevin Farron and I am FOR House Bills 5408 and 5409, which are extremely important to the existence of our Michigan business. Launched in 2013, the *TC Cycle Pub* is a group quadricycle used to tour downtown Traverse City's breweries. Seating 8-14 people, our hired drivers chauffer various groups – mostly tourists – in a safe, fun and unique way to see the city and support its booming craft beer industry.

The *TC Cycle Pub* attracts tourists from all over the Midwest. Visitors want to plan their birthday parties in Traverse City to utilize the *TC Cycle Pub*, but are then disappointed when they learn they are not allowed to drink beer on board like they can in other states. Jean Ruestman from the Office of Passenger Transportation at MDOT agrees that, "Act 271 of 1990 did not anticipate regulating anything other than a traditional motor vehicle...which does not apply to [our] pedal pub."

House Bills 5408 and 5409 would provide updated regulations specifically addressing vehicles like ours, resulting in a tremendous positive effect on our and similar businesses. *TC Cycle Pub* has employed 12 drivers, but we expect that number to triple in 2015 with the passage of these bills and the resulting increase in tours and publicity.

The City of Traverse City already has widespread support of our operation, including the Chief of Police, City Clerk, City Commissioners and residents along our route, including Rep. Schmidt. The TC Visitors Bureau has an entire display designated to the TC Cycle Pub and TC Ale Trail, both created to elevate Traverse City's growing beer industry. TC Cycle Pub has donated more than 35 tours to local non-profits, totaling more than \$3,600 in charitable gifts. Our business is severely handcuffed, however, by lack of clear and updated litigation, something the City of Traverse City claims they have no authority to remedy without state action.

Fortunately for Michigan, there are many states that already have passed nearly identical bills without issue. In neighboring states like Wisconsin, Minnesota and Indiana, the resulting tourism and economic benefits are inarguable and were main reasons for the legislation. Ten other states have also passed similar laws. We hope that Michigan, a state that is rightfully proud of their growing beer scene, will follow the lead of other proactive states by supporting legislation that allows offshoots of the promising craft beer industry to exist and thrive, supporting local economies and creating many Michigan jobs. Therefore, I urge the committee to support HB 5408 AND 5409.

Thank you for hearing my testimony. With gratitude,

Kevin Farron

TC Cycle Pub



