

March 12, 2020

RE: House Bill 2675

Craft beer depends on reliable water, and so do Arizona's farmers, communities, economies, rivers, birds, and other wildlife. As leaders in Arizona's craft brewing industry and members of the Western Rivers Brewers' Council, we are urging you to support House Bill 2675.

This legislation would protect water users who submit a water conservation plan to the Arizona Department of Water Resources from losing their water rights for use in the future. This ensures that a water user who is doing the right thing and conserving—by switching to lower water use crops or upgrading to efficient irrigation systems—is not abandoning or forfeiting the water they save.

An example of water users doing the right thing can be seen in the Verde Valley where barley is being used to replace more water intensive crops. Local company Sinagua Malt malts this barley and we use it in many of our brews. It is Arizona's only locally grown and malted barley and is benefitting the river, community, and economy in the Verde Valley.

HB 2675 encourages the thoughtful and effective use of water by farmers and other surface water users, leaving more water flowing in rivers because of the provision that water saved under a water conservation plan is not subject to "use it or lose it," or forfeiture of water rights for non-use.

Proactive water policies that protect Arizona's rivers are essential for our state. Please support this important bill. It is good for people, it's good for the brewing industry, and it is good for the birds, fish, and other wildlife that depend on flowing rivers and the habitat they sustain.

Respectfully,

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Sinagua Malt

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