

RICHARD E. NEAL
SECOND DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

AT-LARGE WHIP



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
CHAIRMAN,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT
REVENUE MEASURES
CHAIRMAN, FRIENDS OF IRELAND

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2009

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I read with great interest of your meeting tomorrow with Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates and Cambridge Police Sgt. James Crowley, which some in the media have taken to calling the "beer summit." I am certain that this casual diplomacy, where the summit participants will discuss current events over a beer, will be an unqualified success. Not knowing the preferences of those invited, I would like to suggest you serve a beer from the largest American-owned brewing company; that being Sam Adams.

We both share a common interest in fostering the success of American-headquartered companies. With the recent purchase of Anheuser Busch by Imbev of Belgium, and Miller-Coors by SAB of the United Kingdom, Boston Beer Company, which brews Sam Adams, remains as the largest American-owned and brewed beer. Anheuser Busch and Miller-Coors control 94% of the U.S. market. So, while Sam Adams is the largest, it only sells less than two million barrels of beer a year resulting in a less than 1% market share.

These craft brewers enjoy a small tax benefit on the first 60,000 barrels produced, which Sam Adams will soon lose as it reaches two million barrels. I am filing legislation this week to preserve this benefit to foster this preservation of craft brews, particularly as they are crowded out by "faux" craft brews, which enjoy all the marketing and distribution advantages of their parent entities that control 94% of the market.

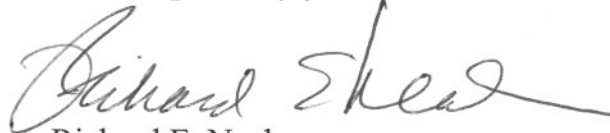
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Of course, there are many other successful beers brewed and owned locally in Massachusetts, such as Northampton Brewery of Northampton, Pioneer Brewing of Sturbridge, Berkshire Brewing of South Deerfield, and Harpoon of Boston. As distribution is one of the highest hurdles craft brewers must contend with, I stand ready if you need any assistance obtaining any of these high-quality Massachusetts-owned and brewed beers.

Most respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard E. Neal". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress