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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXAS CRAFT BREWERS GUILD ADVOCATES FOR “BEERS FOR STEERS” LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT BREWING INDUSTRY, TEXAS AGRICULTURE

Pair of New Bills Would Provide Brewers With Excise Tax Credit for Donating Spent Grain Byproduct to Texas Farmers and Ranchers

AUSTIN, Texas (April 3, 2025) – With the 89th Texas Legislature currently in session, the Texas Craft Brewers Guild is proud to support the introduction of [HB 3336/SB 1554](#) by State Representative Brad Buckley (HD 54) and Senator Pete Flores (SD 24). Dubbed the “Beers for Steers” initiative, these companion bills propose an excise tax credit for breweries that donate their spent grain—a nutrient-rich byproduct of the brewing process—to Texas farmers and ranchers. This legislation is designed to reinforce the bond between the state’s brewing and agricultural sectors and enhance the economic stability of small operators in both industries.

“This bill is a win-win for both Texas brewers and ranchers,” Representative Buckley said. “By incentivizing the donation of spent grain, we’re reducing waste, supporting small businesses, and providing ranchers with an affordable and readily available feed option for their livestock.”

Under this new bill, brewers and distillers who donate their spent grain to agricultural producers for uses such as animal feed, soil regeneration, and commercial composting would be eligible to claim an excise tax credit of eight cents per dry weight pound of grain donated. This incentive encourages producers to donate this valuable byproduct despite rising operational costs.

"Craft breweries are still grappling with the ongoing economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other environmental challenges and global factors that have disrupted supply chains and driven up costs," said Travis Bailey, Government Affairs Associate for the Texas Craft Brewers Guild. "This targeted tax relief will help breweries mitigate some of these increased expenses as they continue to create jobs and foster economic growth within their communities."

The craft brewing industry has a \$5.3 billion dollar economic impact on the Texas economy, ranking third nationally in both overall craft beer production and economic impact. Yet, Texas ranks 48th in breweries per capita, underscoring the industry's continuing potential in a large, high population state and the need for laws, regulations, and programs to keep up with the evolving and maturing market.

"Texas farmers and ranchers are the backbone of our state's economy, and this bill provides a win-win for both them and our thriving craft beer industry," said Senator Pete Flores. "This legislation will encourage sustainable practices and strengthen partnerships between Texas' agricultural and brewing communities. By allowing brewers to donate spent grain—an otherwise unused byproduct—they can support our farmers and ranchers, all while receiving a tax incentive for their generosity."

Across Texas small breweries are already collaborating with agricultural producers to repurpose spent grain. According to bovine nutrition experts, up to 40% of an average dairy cow's diet can be supplemented with spent grain while maintaining the animal's health and optimal milk production. Utilizing donated spent grain could result in a savings for the rancher of approximately \$3,500 per cow annually according to Guild estimates.

"The generosity of brewers in donating spent grain has already been happening informally, but we want to encourage it on a larger scale," Senator Flores said. "This bill provides brewers with the financial incentive they need, while helping farmers and ranchers feed their livestock more affordably and sustainably. It's the right thing to do for our communities and our economy. Texans helping Texans—this bill is a prime example of that spirit."

HB 3336 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Ways & Means Committee on Monday, April 7. The Texas Craft Brewers Guild is proud to support the 'Beers for Steers' initiative as well as a number of other bills this session which aim to increase operational flexibility and paths to market for Texas craft brewers.

Texans who want to learn more, and reach out to their legislators in support of these bills, can visit texascraftbrewersguild.org/governmentaffairs.

Additional press releases, images, and industry statistics are available for media members at texascraftbrewersguild.org/presskit.

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ABOUT THE TEXAS CRAFT BREWERS GUILD:

As a member-driven organization, the Texas Craft Brewers Guild fights for the advancement of independent beer brewed in the Lone Star state. Together, we promote, propel, and protect our collective interests while enlisting our fellow Texans to raise a glass and join us. The Guild's Board of Directors hail from craft breweries in all the major metropolitan regions of the state, as well as different brewery types and sizes to represent the Guild's ~300 brewery members throughout the state, including operating breweries, as well as those that are in the advanced planning stages. The Guild also welcomes allied trade, retail, education, and nonprofit members who support the craft brewing industry as well as Texas cities committed to craft beer tourism and economic development through the Brew City, Texas program. To learn more about the Texas Craft Brewers Guild visit texascraftbrewersguild.org.