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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

We write to you today to express our deep concern regarding the devastating impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on our restaurant and bar industry. Many of these businesses in an effort to slow the spread and be socially responsible have remained shuttered for weeks; others in the food industry have managed to stay open by offering curbside pick-up, simply trying to remain economically viable. Tough decisions were made but they didn't come without a price. We fear the toll on this industry will be lasting and some will never recover. Sadly, these once thriving businesses have become collateral damage.

As counties around our Commonwealth move forward to slowly re-opening, we implore you to take steps to help our community restaurants and bars. Let us reward them for being socially responsible and give them a reprieve from the economic disadvantage that COVID 19 has thrust upon them. We request that you waive or refund this year's license renewal/validation fees for liquor licensees that have remained closed or that have demonstrated significant loss of 25% or more to their business. Allow them this grace period from paying this fee, to once again get back up and running.

We recognize that this request does not come without a cost. We realize that the Commonwealth and local municipalities will initially collect less revenue by not collecting these fees. But we also recognize that if we do nothing we stand to lose so much more. If these local establishments shutter forever we lose valuable connections, where neighbors gather and families' meet. After all they are our partners in good times and bad. They demonstrated how to be responsible business owners and slow the spread and now it is our turn to help them out. We thank you for your time and attention to this matter and ask for your urgent consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dan Deasy in black ink.

Dan Deasy, Chairman
Liquor Control Committee
27th Legislative District

Handwritten signature of Jake Wheatley, Jr. in black ink.

Jake Wheatley, Chairman
Finance Committee
19th Legislative District

cc: Tim Holden, Chair
Liquor Control Board
Mike Negra, Member
Liquor Control Board
Mary Isenhour, Member
Liquor Control Board