



EAGLE DISTRIBUTING COMPANY

I am writing in support of the Hand Family desire to sell their beer wholesale operation in Owensboro to the Anheuser Busch wholesale operation in Louisville.

As a family business owner who has operated in Kentucky for over 35 years and also has done business in Ohio and West Virginia since 1933, I fully understand the three-tier system and the protection it offers to the alcohol industry. My family was put out of business by prohibition and now operates in three states. That said, I do not believe the three-tier system to be the issues with the Anheuser Busch acquisition of the Hand's Owensboro operation.

The Hand family has operated in Tennessee and Kentucky for over 60 years and has an opportunity to use funds from selling their Owensboro operation as partial payment in buying one of the largest beer wholesalers in the nation, located in Chicago, from Anheuser Busch. This is a great opportunity for the Hand family.

Anheuser Busch is a wholesaler in Kentucky by default when no other buyers showed interest in a failing Louisville wholesale operation in 1977. Since that time they have made considerable issues and built the Louisville business into the largest single operation in Kentucky. At the same time their growth has also allowed all other family-owned Anheuser Busch wholesalers in Kentucky to over triple the size of their business. All this time they have operated in professional and responsible business manner.

I see no reason to not allow this sale to go through and am available to speak further on my position if needed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Guy Spriggs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "W".

W. Guy Spriggs