

News Release

Brett Robinson, President

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Beer Distributors of Oklahoma Celebrate Anniversary of 21st Amendment, Today's Effective Distribution System

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, December 4, 2014 – The Beer Distributors of Oklahoma on Friday will celebrate the 81st anniversary of the ratification of the 21st Amendment to the United States Constitution, which repealed Prohibition and established today's effective system of state-based alcohol regulation.

On December 5, 1933, Prohibition ended in the United States when 36 states (a three-fourths majority of the then 48 states) ratified the 21st Amendment to the United States Constitution. The 21st Amendment repealed the 18th Amendment, ending 13 years of Prohibition and granting each state the primary authority to enact and enforce alcohol laws.

Tulsa native Craig Purser, president and chief executive officer of the National Beer Wholesalers Association, said, "For more than 80 years, Americans have benefited from a system of state-based alcohol regulation that balances robust competition with local social norms and community desires. Today, consumers of legal drinking age have access to thousands of different brands and styles of beer – from small regional craft brews to large multinational labels and imports from around the world – all delivered through a safe, transparent and accountable system."

"America's modern system of alcohol distribution works to protect the public and provide consumers with unparalleled choice and value," Purser continued. "The one-size-fits-all federal 'solution' of Prohibition proved to create more problems than it solved – like the growth in organized crime and an underground black market for alcohol. Contrast that to the 21st Amendment, which recognized that alcohol is a unique product best controlled by individual states and provided a solution that continues to be effective today."

Brett Robinson, president of the Beer Distributors of Oklahoma said, "Oklahoma's independent, licensed beer distribution facilities, along with nearly 15,000 Oklahoma jobs associated with the beer industry, generates over \$200 million annually in personal, business, federal, state, local and consumption taxes. Operating under a state-based regulatory system, Oklahoma's

independent beer distributors create great jobs and provide choice and value to consumers in communities all across Oklahoma.”

According to the economic impact report [*America’s Beer Distributors: Fueling Jobs, Generating Economic Growth & Delivering Value to Local Communities*](#), America’s independent beer distributors fuel more than 345,000 direct and indirect jobs, add \$54 billion to the nation’s gross domestic product and offer far reaching benefits to brewers, retailers, consumers and government agencies at all levels.

To view the [full report](#), [state by state data](#) and to [download an infographic](#) of the report’s key findings, please visit www.nbwa.org.

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Founded in 1938, the purpose of the Beer Distributors of Oklahoma is to provide leadership which enhances the independent beer wholesale business; to advocate before government and the public on behalf of its members; to encourage the responsible consumption of beer and to provide programs and services that will enhance members’ efficiency and effectiveness.