



**Statement of
Mike Contreras, 2SP Brewing and
Timothy Neal Brown, Tannery Run Brew Works
to the Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Committee
“Protecting the Delaware River Basin”
February 22, 2021**

Good morning, committee members and chairs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is **Mike Contreras** and I am the Director of Sales & Marketing for [2SP Brewing Company](#). Located in **Aston, Pennsylvania**, the brewery embodies the hard work and blue collar attitude of Delco. Our motto is “Pretentious? Never. Passionate? Always.” We are passionate about our beer but also the ingredients we use. That’s why we care about protecting the Delaware River Watershed and are a founding member of [Brewers for the Delaware River](#).

Brewers for the Delaware River is a coalition of over 20 craft brewers in all four states of Delaware River Watershed, united to promote the protection of the watershed as a reliable, clean water source that benefits the people, birds and communities of the region.

We applaud your efforts to further the cause of a healthy Delaware River Watershed. As an ecologically and economically significant landscape, the Delaware River Watershed does more than supply clean water to over 13.3 million people – it also supplies a crucial ingredient for our brews.

Brewers in our region have a long, proud tradition of sourcing water from the Delaware River Watershed; but without sound watershed management and protection, this industry could be forced to change its water-sourcing strategy, and at great cost. It’s no secret that larger brewers are siting their operations near stable water supplies, giving rise to industry growth in places like western North Carolina and the Great Lakes region.

Craft brewing and our industry is more than what my parents think it is. 2SP employs 16 people and Tannery Run – who you’ll hear from next – employs approximately 20 people. Together we are part of an industry that employs over 41,000 people across Pennsylvania, with an average wage above \$40,000.

In total, our industry contributed \$5.6 billion to Pennsylvania’s economy in 2019. Pennsylvania brewing industry also ranks second in the nation in barrels of beer produced annually.

Over the past 6 years, our little Delco brewery has worked closely with our friends and neighbors locally and brought a taste of the great state of PA abroad. Since 2016 one can find a Delco Lager on tap at The Hangout in Hiroshima, Craft Beer Works Kamikaze in Osaka, and The Watering Hole in Tokyo. Locally, we have worked collaboratively with Wawa, our Delaware County neighbors, on beers using their coffee and packaged what has been celebrated as “SEPTA” pride.

Beer can bring people together and through our partnerships, lead them to new experiences. We have worked with The Pennsylvania Ballet and the Brandywine River Museum of Art as a way of supporting and bringing attention to our local cultural institutions. One of our more exciting partnerships was with the Audubon Society and Tyler Arboretum for a bird watching & beer garden experience.

COVID has brought many challenges to our industry & community. Our brewery was lucky, we did not have to furlough any of our employees or take pay cuts. This was remarkable because we lost 70% of our business virtually overnight with bars closing. By pivoting our business model and adapting to a new marketplace we were able to find opportunities. With our success we were able to work with local charities, in particular The Delco Group, and donated over \$2,000 to be used to help those in our community most in need.

We are grateful for your leadership and encourage you to continue pushing for the protection of the Delaware River Watershed and our industry of local and small businesses. We are eager to provide support along the way.

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My name is **Timothy Neal Brown** and I am a co-owner of [Tannery Run Brew Works](#) in **Ambler, Pennsylvania**. Tannery Run was born from the waterway that curls beneath our building. Our home was constructed among the rocks and waters of the creek. This deep connection to our local tributary is one of the reasons we joined Brewers for the Delaware River.

Made up of more than 95% water, the quality of our brews depends heavily upon the quality of the water we use to make them. As craft brewers, we take pride in the exceptional quality of our work, and the communities surrounding us do, too. The brews we create are more than enjoyable beverages – they also provide opportunities for people and neighbors to bond. We find that when our customers bond over locally crafted brews, our brews help to build a sense of local pride and community.

Community and watershed engagement runs deep at Tannery Run. By helping to found Ambler food co-op, Tannery Run has been able to help the community-owned grocery merge with Weaver's Way food co-op and bring healthy, locally grown and easily accessible food to the Ambler area. Previously, Ambler had no grocery. Our business has slowed due to COVID-related indoor dining restrictions, but we have been able to transition to packaging and local distribution.

Tannery Run has also worked closely with the Ambler Environmental Advisory Board to create spaces that promote natural water filtration such as rain gardens and permeable parking spaces. By partnering with the Wissahickon Watershed, Tannery Run has been able to keep our water ways cleaner for communities and wildlife.

Preserving the Delaware River Watershed as our source of quality, clean water to create exceptional brews, will preserve the pride, identity and vitality of the local breweries in our communities and throughout the watershed.

On behalf of Tannery Run, 2SP, and the communities served by craft brewers throughout the region, we thank you for your continued leadership for the protection of the Delaware River Watershed.

Thank you to the entire committee for inviting our testimony today. Cheers!

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