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Pubs Consultation, Consumer & Competition Policy  
Department of Business, Innovation & Skills  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Orchard 2  
1 Victoria Street  
Westminster  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Dear Sirs,

We write to add our strong support to the Submission made by the Independent Family Brewers of Britain in response to Governmental proposals for introduction of a Statutory Code relating to the brewery tie.

We believe that there is no requirement for a statutory code and that the existing voluntary code even in the short time it has existed is working well and should be given more time to become further established.

We support a level of 500 tenancies but only if this in itself does not distort the market. Any number should exclude managed operations and franchises as they are not relevant to the debate.

We believe the introduction of a statutory code would be costly and ultimately unfair in terms of funding of the voluntary code by fewer smaller companies. We believe ultimately that cost will have to be borne by consumers thus bringing with it the inherent risk to pubs and related jobs in the future.

We hold that the family brewers of Britain together with their tenants have managed the balance of interest between them satisfactorily over many decades and in some cases centuries; this from a company that only owns one pub and therefore with no vested interest.

A 'guest beer' option in all tied pubs would fundamentally undermine this balance and would have serious unintended consequences. Further we believe a mandatory free of tie option would risk long term investment in Britain's pub population and would be disastrous for the industry as a whole.

We urge the BIS to abandon plans for a Statutory Code.

Yours faithfully,

Simon Theakston  
Executive Director