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**From:**  
**Sent:** 19 June 2013 12:09  
**To:** Pubs Consultation Responses  
**Subject:** FW: Pub Companies and Tenants: A Government Consultation

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**From:** ...  
**Sent:** 13 June 2013 11:52  
**To:** spelmanc@parliament.uk  
**Cc:** Enquiry Enquiry (Other Government Departments); lorely.burt.mp@parliament.uk; cablev@parliament.uk  
**Subject:** Pub Companies and Tenants: A Government Consultation

**For the attention of Caroline Spelman, MP for Solihull**

Dear Ms Spelman

I am writing to you not only as one of your constituents but also as an employee of a great local business Enterprise Inns plc to express my concern regarding the possible implications of the Government's consultation into the relationship between pub companies and their licensees.

Having worked at Enterprise for over / years, I have watched the company evolve from a small company with 20 employees and around 300 pubs to a large organisation that now employees over 500 employees and owns around 5700 pubs. I have to say that the principles of Enterprise still remain, a hardworking, fun company who has high regard and respect for both its employees and Publicans.

Having worked through many of the inquiries of the Select Committee, OFT and BIS I am astounded that once again the Government finds it necessary to intervene in what is a truly a good company with great ethos and values. With the most recent OFT's final decision of 14 October 2010 drawing the conclusion that the tied model works well and that competition in the industry is preventing the beer tie from being used to inflate pub beer prices beyond competitive levels.

We are in an economic climate where everyone seems to be facing challenges - shops, small businesses, large corporations (although some less than others who decide not to pay any Corporate Tax!), home owners, students, families and of course pubs. Enterprise, has worked hard with their Publicans to survive through these difficult times (including providing financial support) where the smoking ban has been followed by the recession, cheap alcohol prices in supermarkets, and changing social trends. The recent scrapping of the Beer Duty escalator has provided some respite but notwithstanding the fact that our pubs have had to put up with it for four years!

The regional manager plays a vital role in supporting our Publicans as does various support areas within head office. By introducing a statutory code or indeed free of tie option would change the dynamics of how our company operates and the support it gives.

Our business model creates an ideal low cost entry for applicants to run their own pub but without having the burden of trying to find the money to buy the property, at the same time they receive the investment and support of a national company. We have a comprehensive application process and before Publicans even take on a pub we actively encourage them to take appropriate advice, ensure they have the right training requirements, prepare adequate business plans, get an accountant and above all know that it is hard work to reap the benefits.

By creating a statutory code for the industry it would only lead to more complex issues, more hurdles for Enterprise and indeed Publicans to deal with whilst trying to run their business.

Moreover, in the recent Queen's Speech the coalition Government confirmed that it wished to reduce the burden of excessive regulation on businesses, specifically through the introduction of a Deregulation Bill and yet this consultation proposes increased regulation with a statutory code and adjudicator. As well as this

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issue I am disappointed that BIS are accepting facts that are misleading, biased and without any concrete evidence and would ask you, as my MP and on behalf of Enterprise a large, local employer to actively support us to ensure this consultation process is balanced and based on true facts and evidence and to actively promote deregulation rather than a burden of increased regulation.

We are a professional, dedicated team and are passionate about our pubs and ensuring they are successful... we do not need a statutory code to hinder this!

Yours sincerely

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