

REP. TERESE BERCEAU
PRESS RELEASE



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**Rep. Berceau Applauds JFC Vote to Raise the Liquor
Tax by 8¢ per Gallon.
Suggests They Seize the Day and Support Her Bill to
Raise the Beer Tax By 3¢ per Gallon.**

*Eleven Republicans and Two Democrats Who Did Not Co-Sponsor Beer Tax Increases
Vote for Much Higher Increases in State Liquor Tax — **Go Figure!***

MADISON— On Tuesday, May 24, the Joint Finance Committee passed a motion, by a 13-3 vote, to raise the Wisconsin liquor tax (deceptively referred to as an “administrative fee” ...yeah, whatever) by a substantial 8¢ a gallon. It was the first time the liquor tax was raised since 1981.

“I don’t know what surprises me more, that Republicans voted to raise liquor taxes, or that Republicans voted for any tax increase ... period!” said Berceau.

Rep. Terese Berceau, who authored a recent bill to raise the beer tax by a slight 3¢ a gallon, after 36 years of neglect, greeted the recent vote increasing the liquor tax as a sign that legislators are finally thawing from the decades-long freeze they imposed on alcohol taxes.

“Just a few weeks ago leaders and members of both parties were heaping disdain on my proposed meager increase in the beer tax,” said Berceau. “It’s funny, but I didn’t hear a peep out of them this week when the JFC voted to raise the liquor tax by a more significant amount,” she added.

“I guess the lesson is that when you are honest and forthright, and make a public announcement about raising an alcohol tax, that’s bad. But, when you sneak a much larger increase into the budget on the sly, then that’s okay,” said Berceau. “I think I’m understanding this politics thing now,” she added.

“My proposed beer tax increase was ballyhooed by Rep. Scott Suder (R-Abbotsford) as an attack on the family fish fry,” said Berceau. “I now realize that my proposed 2¢-a-six-pack increase would have completely destroyed that hallowed Wisconsin family tradition,” said Berceau. “Moreover, I look forward to Rep. Suder speaking out as vehemently against the recent Republican-led liquor tax increase,” she added. “It’s an attack on the very fabric of WMC three martini lunches and country club cocktail parties. Every Wisconsin senior citizen’s private stash of tipping brandy is now at serious risk!”