More Than 40% of the Cost of Every Beer is Taxes... Most of Them Hidden

22% Excise, sales & direct taxes
2% State income and payroll taxes & other state and local taxes
17% Federal income, payroll & other taxes
VIRGINIA’S BEER EXCISE TAX IS HIGH ENOUGH!

- Virginia’s beer excise tax is the nation’s 16th highest.
- On a regional basis, Virginia’s beer excise tax is higher than every other state except North Carolina.
- Raising beer taxes does have consequences: Virginia’s beer excise tax collections declined by 9% when Congress doubled the federal beer tax in 1991.
- The result of that federal beer tax increase rippled through Virginia’s brewer, distributor and retail communities: jobs were lost, capital improvements were deferred—all this on an industry that has averaged an annual growth rate of less than 1% over the past ten years.
- Virginia distributors collected more than $44.4 million in beer excise taxes in FY 2010—a contribution to the Commonwealth certain to decline if the beer excise tax is raised.
- Six packs don’t pay taxes—You and I do! Beer taxes hurt working men and women the hardest. The average beer consumer’s household income is $53,000 a year.
- Federal and state beer excise taxes are already part of the purchase price when consumers reach the cash register—the sales tax is then added: tax on tax is the result.

This message brought to you by … Anheuser-Busch, MillerCoors and the Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association.
For additional information, contact: Phil Boykin of the Virginia Beer Wholesalers Association at 804-783-2655 (email: Phil.Boykin@vbwa.org).

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