	Case 4:23-cv-00346-DCN	Document 1	Filed 08/04/23	Page 1 of 7
RACIN 201 E. 0 P.O. Bo Pocatel Phone: Fax: (20 <u>heidi@</u> Robert James A	Buck Morrison (ISB No. 9396) IE OLSON, PLLP Center Street ox 1391 lo, Idaho 83204 (208) 232-6101 08) 232-6109 <u>racineolson.com</u> D. Epstein, <i>pro hac vice pending</i> A. Tanford, <i>pro hac vice pending</i> IN SEIF PORTER & BEUTEL			
50 S. M. Indiana Phone: Fax: (3 <u>Rdepste</u>	IN SEIF PORTER & BEUTEL Ieridian St., Suite 505 polis, IN 46204 (317) 639-1326 17) 638-9891 <u>ein@aol.com</u> <u>@indiana.edu</u>			
11 .	rys for Plaintiffs Dwinell, LLC d/l b/a Varietal Beer Co.,	b/a Dwinell Cot	untry Ales, and No	orth First Industrie
		TATES DISTR E DISTRICT C		
STEFA DWIN COUN NORT	ROBERTS, an individual; AN YAUCHZEE, an individual; NELL, LLC, D/B/A DWINELL NTRY ALES, a Washington LLC TH FIRST INDUSTRIES, INC., I ETAL BEER CO., a Washington ration.	; and D/B/A	No PLAINT	
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bevera	XY GRIPTON, chief of Idaho alco age control, RAUL LABRADOR ney General of Idaho,			
Attorn				

Plaintiffs make the following allegations based upon information and belief, except for the allegations pertaining to Plaintiffs, which are based upon personal knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

This is a civil rights action brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 challenging the constitutionality of Idaho laws, rules and practices that allow small in-state beer producers to self-distribute their products directly to Idaho retailers, bars and restaurants without using a separate wholesaler, but prohibit similarly situated out-of-state beer producers from doing so. The Plaintiffs seek a declaratory judgment that this scheme discriminates against out-of-state beer producers in violation of the dormant Commerce Clause. They seek an injunction prohibiting Idaho state officials from enforcing the ban and requiring them to permit out-of-state beer producers to self-distribute their products to Idaho retailers upon terms equivalent to those given to in-state producers.

JURISDICTION

1. This Court has jurisdiction to hear this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343(a)(3), which confer original jurisdiction on federal district courts to hear suits alleging the violation of rights and privileges under the United States Constitution.

The Court has the authority to grant declaratory and other relief pursuant to 28
 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

PLAINTIFFS

3. Consumer Plaintiff Jane Roberts is a resident of Pocatello, Idaho. She is over the age of twenty-one and is legally permitted to purchase, receive, possess, and drink beer at her residence. She is a beer collector and desires to purchase special beers that are difficult to locate. As a consumer of fine and artisanal beer, she would like to purchase craft beer from out-of-state beer producers in Washington which would be added to her beer collection and have those beers shipped to her residence in Idaho, but Idaho laws, rules, and practices prohibit the out-of-state beer producers from doing so.

4. Consumer Stefan Yauchzee is a resident of Moscow, Idaho. He is over the age of twenty-one and is legally permitted to purchase, receive, possess, and drink beer at his residence. He is a beer collector and desires to purchase special beers that are difficult to locate. As a consumer of fine and artisanal beer, He would like to purchase craft beer from out-of-state beer producers in Washington which would be added to his beer collection and have those beers shipped to his residence in Idaho, but Idaho laws, rules, and practices prohibit the out-of-state beer producers from doing so.

5. Dwinell, LLC, operates a brewery in Goldendale, Washington, under the name of Dwinell Country Ales (hereafter "Dwinell"). It is licensed as a brewer by the State of Washington and the federal Alcohol & Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. It produces beer and distributes it to retailers, restaurants, and bars within the states of Washington, Oregon and California. It is seeking to distribute its beer in Idaho.

6. North First Industries, Inc. operates a brewery in Sunnyside, Washington, under the name of Varietal Beer Co. (hereafter "Varietal Beer"). It is licensed as a brewer by the State of Washington and the federal Alcohol & Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. It produces beer and distributes it to retailers, restaurants, and bars within the states of Washington and Oregon. It is seeking to distribute its beer in Idaho.

DEFENDANTS

7. Rocky Gripton is the Chief of the Idaho Alcohol Beverage Control Bureau, a division of the Idaho State Police. His office enforces Idaho alcohol laws, including those related to licensing and distribution of beer, pursuant to the authority given by I.C. § 23-804 and Id. Admin. R. 11.05.01.011.01.

8. Raul Labrador is the Attorney General of Idaho. He is authorized to enforce Idaho alcohol laws in state court under I.C. § 23-803, and in federal court under 27 U.S.C. § 122a.

The defendants are sued in their official capacity for injunctive relief.

COMPLAINT - 3

9.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Commerce Clause Violation)

10. Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege paragraphs 1-9 as if fully set out herein.

11. Idaho Code § 23-1003(f) authorizes the issuance of a wholesaler license to a brewery located in Idaho producing fewer than 30,000 barrels annually, which allows it to selfdistribute its beer to retailers.

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The wholesaler privileges are given to Idaho brewers at no additional cost.

13. Self-distribution costs a brewery less than distribution through a separate wholesaler and gives the brewer control over the cost to retailers.

14. Self-distribution ensures that an Idaho brewery can distribute its products to retailers state-wide even if it cannot find a wholesaler willing to carry its beer, and without interruptions caused by independent wholesaler decisions about carrying, marketing, and pricing the beer.

15. Some Idaho breweries have obtained this wholesale license and self-distribute their beer to retailers, restaurants, and bars in Idaho.

16. Plaintiff Dwinell is located in the State of Washington and licensed as a brewer by Washington. It produces fewer than 30,000 barrels of beer annually.

17. Dwinell is not eligible for an Idaho wholesale license under I.C. § 23-1003(f) because it does not hold an Idaho brewer's license under § 23-1003(a), a brewer's retail license under § 23-1003(d), or a brewer's pub license under § 23-1003(e).

18. Plaintiff Varietal Beer Co. is located in the State of Washington and licensed as a brewer in Washington. It produces fewer than 30,000 barrels of beer annually.

19. Varietal Beer Co. is not eligible for an Idaho wholesale license under I.C. § 23-1003(f) because it does not hold an Idaho brewer's license under § 23-1003(a), a brewer's retail license under § 23-1003(d), or a brewer's pub license under § 23-1003(e).

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20. Dwinell and Varietal Beer Co. are permitted to self-distribute their beer under the laws of the State of Washington.

21. The licenses described in paragraphs 19 and 21 are issued only to brewers physically located in Idaho and approved by an Idaho city or county.

22. No other Idaho license or permit is available to brewers located outside Washington that would allow them to self-distribute their beer to retailers, restaurants and bars in Idaho without using a separate wholesaler.

23. Without a wholesale license, it is unlawful for a brewer to self-distribute its beer to Idaho retailers under I.C. § 23-1055(a), and a person doing so may be charged with a crime under § 23-602. Any criminal conduct on the part of Dwinell and Varietal Beer Co. subjects it to the denial, suspension, revocation or nonrenewal of its Washington license under RCW 66-24-010.

24. Wholesalers charge fees to distribute beer, so the use of a separate wholesaler raises the cost of beer to the purchaser and reduces the profit to the brewer.

25. Dwinell and Varietal Beer Co. have lost profits because of the ban on direct selfdistribution to Idaho retailers.

26. Because Idaho brewers can self-distribute their beer to Idaho retailers without incurring the cost of using a separate wholesaler, they have a competitive advantage over similarly situated brewers from other states, including Dwinell and Varietal Beer Co.

27. Beer purchased directly from the brewer has economic and business advantages including avoiding the wholesaler cost markup, eliminating the risk that the wholesaler will carry insufficient stock of the beer, facilitating direct communication with the brewery concerning supply issues, and ensuring that the beer will be properly handled and refrigerated between the brewery and the retailer.

28. Dwinell and Varietal Beer Co. would distribute their beer directly to Idaho retailers, restaurants, and bars if permitted to do so.

29. Dwinell and Varietal Beer Co. would obtain an Idaho license, submit records, remit Idaho taxes on beer distributed to retailers in the state, and comply with other nondiscriminatory state regulations if required to do so.

30. Plaintiffs cannot complete the transactions described in paragraph 28 because Idaho law prohibits them.

31. The prohibition against self-distribution by out-of-state beer producers discriminates against out-of-state entities, protects the economic interests of Idaho wholesalers, and shields Idaho brewers from interstate competition in violation of the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.

32. The prohibition against self-distribution by out-of-state beet producers advances no public health or safety purpose that could not be served by nondiscriminatory alternatives, including monitoring sales at Idaho retailers, and therefore is not protected by the Twenty-first Amendment.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs seek the following relief:

A. Judgment declaring that the provisions in I.C. §§ 23-1055(a) and 23-1055(d) that prohibit out-of-state brewers producing fewer than 30,000 barrels of beer annually from selling directly to Idaho retailers are unconstitutional under the Commerce Cause.

B. Judgment declaring that the provisions in I.C. §§ 23-1003(d) and 23-1003(e) that limit the issuance of brewer's retail and brewer's pub licenses to breweries located in the state of Idaho are unconstitutional under the Commerce Clause.

C. An injunction prohibiting defendants from enforcing those laws against out-of-state brewers and requiring them to allow out-of-state brewers to self-distribute their products to Idaho retailers, restaurants, and bars upon terms equivalent to those imposed on in-state brewers.

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1							
1 2	D. Plaintiffs do not request that the defendants be enjoined from requiring out-of-state						
3	brewers to obtain the same no-cost wholesale license it requires for in-state brewers or comply						
4	with the same 30,000 barrel production limit it imposes on in-state brewers.						
5	E. Plaintiffs do not request that the State of Idaho be enjoined from collecting any taxes						
6	due on beer sold directly from a brewer to a retailer.						
7	F. An award of attorney's fees, costs, and expenses pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988.						
8	G. Such other relief as the Court deems appropriate.						
9	DATED this 4 th day of August, 2023.						
10	RACINE OLSON, PLLP						
11 12							
12	By: <u>/s/ Heidi Buck Morrison</u> HEIDI BUCK MORRISON						
14	HEIDI BUCK MORRISON						
15							
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17	DATED this 4 th day of August, 2023.						
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19	EPSTEIN SEIF PORTER & BEUTEL						
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21	By: <u>/s/ Robert D. Epstein</u> ROBERT D. EPSTEIN						
22	DATED this 4 th day of August, 2023.						
23	EPSTEIN SEIF PORTER & BEUTEL						
24	EFSTEIN SEIF FORTER & BEUTEL						
25	Dru /a/ Jamas A. Tanfard						
26	By: <u>/s/ James A. Tanford</u> JAMES A. TANFORD						
27 28							
20							
	COMPLAINT - 7						

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
District of			
))))) V.))) Defendant(s)	Civil Action No.		

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

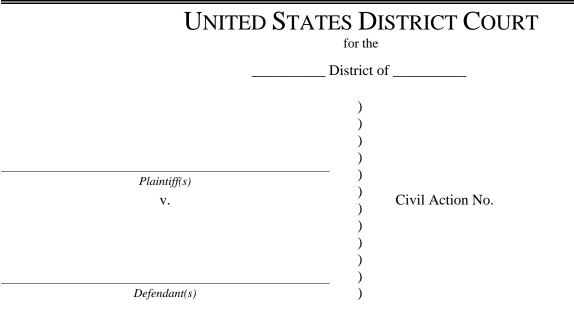
(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

	This summons for (nam	ne of individual and title, if any)						
was re	ceived by me on (date)							
	□ I personally served	the summons on the individ	ual at (place)					
			on (date)	; or				
	\Box I left the summons	or usual place of abode with (name)						
	, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there							
	on (date)	n (date) , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or						
	□ I served the summo	, who is						
	designated by law to a	a law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)						
			on (date)	; or				
	\Box I returned the summ	□ I returned the summons unexecuted because						
	□ Other (<i>specify</i>):							
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$					
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.							
Date:								
2			Server's signature					
			Printed name and title					

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action



SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

	This summons for (nan	ne of individual and title, if any)							
was re	ceived by me on (date)								
	□ I personally served	the summons on the individu	al at (place)						
		; or							
	□ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (<i>name</i>)								
		, a per	rson of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,					
	□ I served the summo	, who is							
	designated by law to a	designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)							
			on (date)	; or					
	\Box I returned the summ	nons unexecuted because		; or					
	Other (<i>specify</i>):								
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$						
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.								
Date:									
2			Server's signature						
			Printed name and title						

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

JS 44 (Rev. 04/21)

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and provided by local rules of court		*	* *	0			· ·		*
purpose of initiating the civil de				ORM.)					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	tefan Yauchzee, Dw	inell I I C North F	irst	DEFENDANTS					
Industries.			not	Rocky Gripton,	Raul Lab	rador			
(b) County of Residence of	of First Listed Plaintiff <u>B</u> XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	annock		County of Residence		ed Defendant <u>A</u>			
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	Address, and Telephone Number			Attorneys (If Known)					
	ison, Racine Olson, 0 83201, 208-232-61		nter						
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in	One Box Only)	III. CI	TIZENSHIP OF PF	RINCIPA				
1 U.S. Government	X 3 Federal Question			(For Diversity Cases Only) PT	F DEF	а	and One Box for I	Defendant) PTF	DEF
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2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		Citiz	en of Another State	2 2	Incorporated and P of Business In A		5	5
				en or Subject of a reign Country	3 3	Foreign Nation		6	6
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240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability	443 Housing/ Accommodations	Sentence 530 General				Defendant) —Third Party	896 Arbitra 899 Admin		rocedure
290 All Other Real Property	445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	Other:	146	IMMIGRATION 52 Naturalization Application	26 USC 7609		Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision		
	446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	540 Mandamus & Other		55 Other Immigration			950 Consti	tutionality	
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	42 USC 1983		: ming (1	Do not cite jurisdictional stat	utes uniess ai	versity):			
VI. CAUSE OF ACTA	Brief description of ca		a) and (c	l) and Idaho Code 23-1003	8(d) and (e); i	request for injunctiv	ve relief		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:									
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCK	ET NUMBER			
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08/04/2023		/s/ Heidi Buck Morriso	n						
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUI	DGE		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a)** Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment

to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- **III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <u>Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</u>.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.