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From:**Sent:** 31 May 2013 18:45**To:** george.hollingbery.mp@parliament.uk**Cc:** Pubs Consultation Responses**Subject:** A Fair Deal for our Local Pubs

As one of your constituents and a Pub Landlord I'm writing to ask you to join me and thousands of pro-pub campaigners up and down the country in backing a fair deal for our local pubs. To show your support, would you please sign EDM 57: 'Fair Deal for Your Local' sponsored by Greg Mulholland MP, Grahame Morris MP and Brian Binley MP.

If you prefer to show your support in other ways, please sign up to support the campaign at www.fairdealforyourlocal.com

After nine years of self-regulation failure by the big pub companies, the Government is now consulting on plans for reform. For too long large pub companies (those with over 500 pubs) have been taking more than is fair or sustainable from pub profits, leaving licensees struggling to make a living and contributing to the closure of 26 pubs every single week.

The Government's plans to deliver a fair deal for licensees tied to large pub companies include the introduction of a statutory code of practice which enshrines vital principles of fair dealing and ensuring that tied licensees should be no worse off than free of tie licensees, alongside a powerful new adjudicator to give tied licensees much-needed protection. In order to stop the large pubcos charging excessive rents and high beer prices, all pubco licensees should be offered a choice between a tied option and a Market Rent Only option. For those who choose to remain tied, a Guest Beer Option should be offered.

The Government has conservatively estimated that this fair deal will result in the average tied pub being £4,000 better off annually, although I think this figure is way too low. As an example, Punch's list price for an 11 gallon keg of Carlsberg is £147.00. They then give me a discounted price of £126.00 per keg. The joke here is that I could go to my local Bookers wholesaler and buy the same keg for £68.00 which is sometimes discounted to £60.00! So their mark-up is not unsubstantial at double the free-trade price. In the last financial year my annual spend with Punch was £ so £4,000 better off is VERY conservative! On top of this, my annual rent is £ so you can easily see why, that as a Punch 'Partner' I have made a loss for the last couple of years, whilst Punch have taken over £100,000 per annum from our 'Partnership'.

These reforms would deliver a fair and positive business relationship between large pub companies and their licensees, resulting in a thriving and prosperous pub sector. They will provide a major boost for Britain's thriving independent brewery sector as

1000 small brewers who are currently locked out of supplying local pubs would be free to make their beers more widely available to pub customers.

Please support the Fair Deal for Your Local campaign by:

- Signing EDM 57 and/or signing up to support the campaign at www.fairdealforyourlocal.com
- Contacting Business department Ministers Vince Cable MP and Jo Swinson MP urging them to implement this package of measures and help secure a sustainable future for viable and well-run community pubs.

I do hope I can rely on your support please. "The Pub is the Hub."

Kind regards,

Landlord

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