



For Immediate Release
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**WHOLESALE BEER DISTRIBUTORS OF TEXAS APPOINTS THOMAS GRAHAM AS
PRESIDENT;
TOM SPILMAN TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT EMERITUS**

AUSTIN – The Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas, one of the nation’s leading beer distribution associations, today announced Thomas Graham as its new President and Tom Spilman in the role of President Emeritus, effective September 7.

This leadership transition represents a thoughtfully planned succession designed to build on WBDT’s strong foundation and further strengthen its partnership with industry members and stakeholders across Texas. Under Graham’s leadership, WBDT will continue to work to advance and protect the state’s beer distribution system, while furthering positioning as the nation’s most important beer market.

Graham joins WBDT following more than two decades of public service with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC). Most recently serving as Executive Director since 2022, Graham previously served as Director of Marketing Practices from 2008 to 2022. His extensive experience in Texas’ alcoholic beverage industry and regulatory landscape brings a unique leadership perspective to WBDT and its members.

“Thomas is our next generation leader and a man of the highest integrity who I’m confident is ready to help us meet the opportunities and challenges ahead,” said Mike McGuire, Chairman of the WBDT. “We are thrilled to have the support of his trusted relationships in all levels of our industry, and his ability to build bridges that are critical to continuing our vision of making Texas the most strategic beer market. I can’t wait to see what is to come under Thomas’ leadership with our industry and state leaders.”

Graham stated, “I’m honored to join WBDT and build on the strong foundation Tom Spilman and the team have established. I’m grateful for his leadership and look forward to working with him going forward”

“I’m also thankful to the TABC Commission and Governor Abbott for the opportunity to lead the agency — leaving after four years as Executive Director isn’t easy, and I’m proud of our team’s dedication and service to Texas. Texas is home to one of the most dynamic beer markets in the country, and I look forward to working with the WBDT team, our members, and industry partners to ensure the continued strength of Texas’ beer distribution system and the consumer protections it affords,” adds Graham.

Spilman has been a strong leader for WBDT since 1992 and has served as President for the past 14 years. In his new role as President Emeritus, Spilman will support Graham and the WBDT

team and members throughout the leadership transition and continue contributing to the association's success.

"I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving WBDT for 35 years. It has been a defining part of my life and my family's legacy, following my father's 45 years of service as General Counsel—together representing 80 years of commitment to an institution and mission in which we believe.

"I am proud of what WBDT accomplished during my tenure. We strengthened the Association and positioned WBDT to better serve its members and the people of Texas. One of the greatest privileges of this work has been serving family-owned businesses and developing relationships that span multiple generations within those families. That experience has given me an appreciation for the values, challenges, and long-term perspective that define family businesses and the important role they play in Texas.

Leadership roles change, but my commitment does not. I am grateful to the members, colleagues, and staff who have placed their trust in me to serve as President Emeritus. Serving WBDT has been the honor of my professional life, and I am proud to continue serving in this next capacity."

"Tom has dedicated his professional career to promoting the independence of beer wholesalers which is the cornerstone of why Texas is one of the most competitive and accessible beer markets in the nation. We are beyond grateful for Tom and his hall-of-fame career working with us, legislators, and regulators to continuously make the Texas market even better," said Mike McGuire.

Spilman added, "WBDT is fortunate to welcome Thomas Graham as its new President. Thomas's reputation as an industry expert and strong leader makes him exceptionally well suited to lead the Association, and I look forward to supporting him as WBDT begins this next chapter"

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ABOUT WBDT

The Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas is the trade association representing Texas independent beer distributors. Texas independent beer distributors help foster the most competitive and successful beer market in the world.

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