



WESTMINSTER BREWING COMPANY

7655 W 108TH AVE, UNIT 600, WESTMINSTER, CO 80031

"a community for good beer"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Westminster Craft Brewery Halted by Government Shutdown

Westminster, Colo. –October 10, 2013 – As nearly 50,000 people descend upon the Great American Beer festival this week, there's one group of local brewers who are feeling anything but festive. Greg Quinones is the owner of the first production brewery in Westminster. The Westminster Brewing Company had been scheduled to open at the beginning of November, but the government shutdown has put that opening date and the 5 jobs (albeit part-time) which the business will create, in jeopardy. As reported by the Associated Press, the federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) must approve all applications for establishments such as craft breweries. Although Quinones sent in all the necessary paperwork for TTB approval in early August, his application was not processed prior to the shutdown. Now, it's in limbo.

"We have our city and state licenses already approved," Quinones said. "But the TTB approval is what we need to open our doors." The backlog created by the shutdown will likely mean Quinones and his partners will wait even longer for the approval needed to bring their unique craft beer concept to the northern suburbs of Denver. Quinones estimates they will be out at least \$6,000 in lost revenue and loan interest payments for every week the opening is delayed.

American Dream on Furlough

Quinones and his wife, Bernadette Novotny, first envisioned the opening of The Westminster Brewing Company years ago. While they hope their new business will someday give them the option to pursue their passion full-time, they're keeping their day jobs. The problem is, their day jobs have also been furloughed. Both Quinones and Novotny are federal employees who have been out of work since the shutdown started Oct. 1. "We want to pursue the American dream of working hard and starting a small business based on something we're passionate about," Quinones said. "The shutdown has taken away our livelihood right now, and it's threatening our long-term dreams too."

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