

## OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

### “Houston Young Republicans defend free market, chart new course”

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Houston, TX—*Monday, March 11, 2013*—On Saturday, the Houston Young Republicans (HYR) amplified the voice of small business owners, holding a “Crawfish Boil” to champion legislation that would deregulate the craft beer industry, and create new economic opportunities for thousands of Texans. Small breweries are currently prohibited from selling out of state, selling on-site, or selling at retail.

Jackson’s Watering Hole hosted HYR’s “Crawfish Boil.”

In a mass mailer sent to legislators in Austin, HYR stated the following,

*“The 'craft beer' market has risen to form the biggest share of breweries across America--at over 2,000 breweries...*

*Sadly, though craft breweries are strong in number, they are told in Texas--supposedly the most business-friendly state in the union--how much they can sell, under what conditions they can sell, and where they can sell their product. **This kind of government regulation is at odds with what Texas claims to stand for** [Emphasis Added].*

*California is actually ahead of Texas in making it easier for smaller breweries to compete and grow...Why is a state that is nearly bankrupt doing a better job at helping breweries thrive than the state of Texas? Something is wrong with this picture.”*

HYR representatives had been meeting with key public officials at the Capitol for weeks prior to holding Saturday’s event.

The efforts to deregulate the craft beer market come on the heels of a change in HYR leadership.

Newly-elected President Jonathan Nessmith recently co-organized a speaker series with media consultant and conservative journalist John Griffing called, **“The Perfect Storm: How will the GOP Survive Age, Ethnicity and Faith in the Next Decade.”**

The series debuted last month and headlined with Senate District 7 Chair David Riddle (the man who kept SD7 “red”) and Linda Vega, an award-winning immigration attorney who has been working to expand Republican support within the Hispanic community.

The event was the first in a long line of actions that HYR hopes will increase the role of young, forward-thinking Texans in the political process, as well as establish new relationships with unreached voters.

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