

# BREWBOUND<sup>®</sup>

CRAFT BEER NEWS, EVENTS & JOBS

## Press Clips: Jeff Sessions Answers Antitrust Questions; Alcohol Justice Calls for New California Beer Excise Tax

Chris Furnari Jan. 12, 2017

### Sessions Tackles Merger Questions at Confirmation Hearing

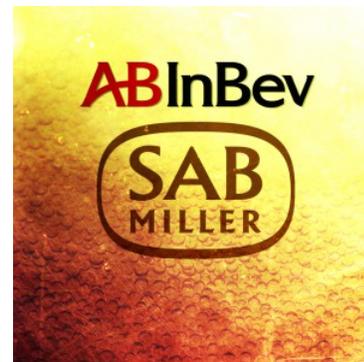
Pressed by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota) and Mike Lee (R-Utah), both of whom serve on the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Sen. Jeff Sessions said Tuesday that he would have “no hesitation to enforce antitrust law” as Attorney General.

During a confirmation hearing, the Alabama Republican was [asked to respond](#) to questions about how he would regulate mergers and acquisitions and whether he would make “vigorous antitrust enforcement a priority.”

“The antitrust policies of the United States have to be consistent and as clear as possible,” Sessions said.

“I have no hesitation to enforce antitrust law,” he added.

In her line of questioning, Sen. Klobuchar, a [co-sponsor](#) of the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act and an [outspoken critic](#) of the Anheuser-Busch InBev/MillerCoors merger known as “MegaBrew,” called out the beer industry specifically and described the period between 2010 and 2015 as a “merger wave,” noting that tie-ups doubled from 716 to 1,801 during the period.



### Alcohol Justice Calls for New California Beer Excise Tax

Alcohol Justice, an Industry watchdog group, is calling upon California lawmakers to introduce a “25 cent per drink” excise tax on beer to “wipe out the state’s projected \$1.6 billion budget shortfall.”

In a [press release](#), Alcohol Justice executive director Bruce Lee described the proposed beer tax increase as “common sense, fiscally responsible and long overdue.”



The organization’s central argument for a hike is rising inflation, which, it claims, has led to a 33 percent decrease in “actual” alcohol tax revenue.