



March 23, 2020

Dear Governor Brown, Oregon Legislators, and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission,

Oregon's alcohol beverage, retail and hospitality industries and over 180,000 working Oregonians in our sector are experiencing the devastating economic impact of COVID-19. The crisis is growing more severe by the day. Due to social distancing policies, we are experiencing sweeping closures of restaurants, bars, breweries, winery tasting rooms, distillery tasting rooms, and wine shops. Sporting events and other large gatherings have all been cancelled. This has impacted thousands of jobs, some temporarily, and others potentially permanently. The entire alcohol supply and retail chain is being decimated. We must act to mitigated the economic damage to our businesses, employees, communities, and state.

Beer, wine and spirits are the third-largest revenue generated for the State of Oregon, producing billions needed to run the state, city and county governments, including money spent on public health. If Oregon's alcohol and hospitality industry is not supported during this critical time, Oregon will see unprecedented losses in funding for critical services, including substance abuse prevention and treatment.

The OLCC has been working closely with industry on measures designed to respond to needs. These measures provide a safe and regulated way for consumers to get alcohol remotely. The OLCC and Oregon's alcohol and hospitality sector needs your support for these temporary measures. These are responsible measures that consumers want, businesses and employees need, designed to benefit state revenues during this challenging time.

In addition to the revenue and jobs lost, closing regulated locations for consumers to access alcohol without providing alternatives (including safe delivery and pick-up) encourages illicit products and illegal, unlicensed, and untraceable sales and shipments of alcohol from unknown locations to consumers.

According to the National Restaurant Association, New York, New Hampshire, Maryland, Illinois, California, Texas, Kentucky, Washington DC, and Vermont as of March 21 were providing flexibility in their alcohol laws on a temporary basis to support the hospitality and alcohol supply and retail network in its time of need.

We need your support now.

Facts About Oregon's Alcohol and Hospitality Sector

- Over 180,000 Oregonians are directly employed in Oregon's breweries, wineries, distilleries, distribution channels, and broader hospitality sector.
- At least 20,000 additional jobs result from the economic benefits from Oregon's alcohol sector.
- Industries that are positively affected include: agriculture, construction, tourism/entertainment, government, general business, and many more.
- The alcohol beverage sector's positive impacts results in billions paid in wages and taxes and millions invested in Oregon non-profits, charities, and state & local government.
- Oregon has over 2,000 brewers, wineries, vineyards, distillers, and distributors and over 10,000 eating and drinking place locations.
- Oregon is second (2nd) in the nation for hop-growing with a 2016 crop value of over \$40 million.
- Alcohol Industry tourism alone accounts for \$800 million in economic benefit to Oregon.