



Date: May 25, 2021

To: House Speaker Tina Kotek and Members of the Oregon House of Representatives

From: Greg Astley, Director of Government Affairs
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association

Subject: **Please Support SB 317A**

ORLA is asking for your support of SB 317A, which passed the Senate 26-2.

Alcoholic beverages can be delivered to consumers today and with the pandemic, delivery services have become more popular and we have to assume they will hold a strong place in the market post-pandemic. Grocery stores, brew pubs, breweries and wineries all have a process under law to do same-day deliveries.

Oregon has allowed for “to-go” or “growler” sales for beer, wine and cider, for many years. All of these examples can be purchased by the consumer without a food purchase.

Large grocery and restaurant chains have marketing professionals and agreements with delivery services that help them adjust to the changing market environment.

The local dinner house in your area does not. This body passed SB 1801 by a vote of 50-4. The industry is very thankful for the change.

The change came at a time of closures, limited in-person dining, shortages in supply chains and new relationships with delivery services for many of Oregon’s independent family-owned restaurants. So, as independent dinner houses were fighting to the adjusting restrictions and regulations, many operators were not able to address the changes provided under SB 1801.

The hospitality industry is now trying to figure out what the “new normal” will be post-pandemic. One thing we are most certain of is delivery and to-go services will hold a bigger share of the market than they did in the past. Local dinner houses will be able to hopefully have more steadiness to plan for economic stability and recovery.

SB 317A is not a bill on whether alcohol can be delivered, because beer, wine and cider can be delivered or purchased to-go and can be done without a food purchase. SB 317A allows mixed drinks to be included in the menu of products. Unlike the other forms of alcohol, the “cocktails” must be purchased with food.

SB 317A will allow a small change in product offerings to adjust to the “new normal” of the future. Please support SB 317A and help local independent restaurants change with the times of the past year thrust upon our local businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Astley', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Greg Astley, Director of Government Affairs
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association