

From: [Richard Gomez](#)
To: [Exhibits HECD](#)
Subject: Testimony for House Interim Committee on Economic Development and OLCC - 5/22/20
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2020 3:56:02 PM

As we approach the two month mark of the dining room closure in Oregon, the majority of our restaurants and bars are on the brink of permanent closure. These locally-owned businesses represent thousands of employees and over 30% of Oregon's economy.

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, restaurants can only expect a 30% chance of staying open, if the COVID-19 crisis lasts four months, which is lower than any other industry. Once we are allowed to reopen, we will continue to face significant obstacles and revenue generation will be severely compromised due to health standards such as social distancing policies.

We applaud the state and the OLCC for taking quick action at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to streamline off-premise license applications and allow the return of inventory to stores for assistance with cash flow. We are writing to request that additional emergency action be taken to allow for the sales of cocktails to-go immediately.

Under current Oregon law ORS 471.175 "*all alcoholic beverages sold under a full on-premises sales license must be consumed on the licensed premises.*" There are statutory carve outs to this rule which allow for malt beverages, beer, wine and cider, but do not allow for distilled spirits. Oregon would be joining 26 other states who have created allowances for to-go cocktail services. An informal survey of restaurants serving alcohol to-go revealed:

- Weekly sales of 45 - 70% of pre COVID-19
- Rehiring of 40 - 65% of staff (part time and full time employees)

This change in statute is an opportunity to create jobs in Oregon's most damaged sector, lightening the weight on state unemployment funds. Dually, it is a tax generating policy change with zero cost to the state through increases in payroll and income tax revenue. Providing 7,581 restaurants and bars in Oregon with this revenue generating tool would allow our industry to make significant contributions to Oregon's economy. You have the opportunity to save jobs and help Oregon's decimated economy with the stroke of a pen.

As many Oregonians are struggling and looking for financial assistance through state and federal sources, all we ask is for the opportunity to reopen our businesses with the tools necessary to survive and once again become contributing members of the Oregon economy.

Thank you for your time.

--



RICKY GOMEZ
Owner / Operator
504.710.5184
barpalomar.com
@palomarpdx

For your reference, states who have allowed cocktails To-Go

- Arizona - Executive order by Governor Doug Ducey
2. California - Department of Alcohol Beverage Control
3. Colorado - Executive order by Governor Jared Polis
4. Connecticut - (cocktail kits) Department of Consumer Protection
5. Florida - Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation
6. Georgia - (Atlanta) Executive Order by Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms
7. Hawaii - Executive order by Governor David Ige
8. Idaho - Idaho Alcohol Beverage Control
9. Iowa - Executive order by Governor Kim Reynolds
10. Kansas - Executive order by Governor Laura Kelly
11. Kentucky - Executive order by Governor Andy Beshear
12. Louisiana - Already in existence
13. Maine - Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations
14. Maryland - Alcohol Beverage Service Department
15. Missouri - Missouri Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control
16. Nebraska - Executive order by Governor Pete Ricketts
17. Nevada - Reno, Las Vegas, Henderson, Clark Counties
18. New Jersey - (cocktail kits)
19. New York - New York State Liquor Authority

20. Ohio - Ohio Liquor Control Commission with support from Gov. Mike DeWine
21. Pennsylvania - Bill passed in house, now in senate
22. Texas - (cocktail kits) Executive order by Governor Greg Abbot
23. Vermont - Executive order by Governor Phil Scott
24. Virginia - Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority with support from Gov. Ralph Northam
25. Washington - Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board
26. Washington DC - D.C. Council emergency bill