



HEADQUARTERS

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Joint Interim Committee on the Third Special Session of 2020
Testimony in support of LC 10 (cocktails to go)
December 17, 2020

Members of the Joint Interim Committee on the Third Special Session of 2020. Thank you for the opportunity to provide **testimony in support of LC 10 (cocktails to go)**.

Hood River Distillers understands the importance of controlling the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon, but state implemented measures have resulted in economic losses that deserve consideration. **Hood River Distillers urges your support of LC 10 which will give bars and restaurants the ability to sell cocktails to-go.**

In light of the Governor's new framework that outlines four different risk levels under which counties must operate, allowing cocktails to-go as an option will provide restaurants a greater chance of survival and greater likelihood of retaining employees---with no additional risk of spreading COVID-19.

As you are aware, state mandated closures and restricted operating abilities due to COVID-19 have been devastating to the state's bars, restaurants, and other alcohol beverage businesses, including Oregon distilleries, breweries, and wineries. Many businesses that sell spirits have been forced to close, downsize, or take other measures to compensate for lost revenue. Hood River Distillers is feeling that pain. Based on media reports, you may believe that the alcohol industry is thriving, but that is not necessarily the case. While some large national brands, and international companies are doing well, the environment for Oregon distilleries is not as rosy. At Hood River Distillers, our portfolio of spirits has performed particularly well in the restaurant and bar (on-premise) channel of business. However, from April through October 2020, our on-premise business plummeted 53% versus the same time last year. This has been devastating. Hood River sales in retail (off-premise) has not come close to offsetting our on-premise losses in revenue and profits.

Allowing restaurants and bars to serve cocktails to-go provides businesses in the spirits industry a better chance of survival and retaining employees while operating under regulations that protect against the spread of COVID-19.

Hood River Distillers supports LC 10 which removes the current statutory barrier that exists for cocktails to-go. Please join the thirty-three states (including California, Washington, and Idaho) that safely allow cocktails to-go. Thank you for your consideration, and in advance for your support of LC 10's cocktails to-go.

Sincerely,

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