

To: The Joint Interim Committee on the Third Special Session of 2020

My name is Eric Nelson and I am a restaurant owner in Portland, Oregon. I am also a person who has been in active recovery for the last six years.

I am sending this letter in hopes that we can get Cocktails To Go passed in Oregon. I understand that anti-alcohol groups have been fighting against this idea saying that making Cocktails To Go will add to the increased spread of COVID, increased alcohol related hospitalizations, and alcohol related fatalities.

As a person who was dependent on alcohol to function in life, I can say that an even more detrimental issue to sobriety is the loss of income or work. Portland is home to many restaurants and without the added benefit of Cocktails To Go, we are unable to employ so many of our workers.

Our people are out of work. Our bars are closing. Our restaurants are barely making it thru. Outside dining will not save us this winter, but Cocktails To Go may be the lifeline we so desperately need.

I do not believe that Cocktails To Go is a threat to my sobriety but I will say that massive unemployment is.

Please give us this chance, if not for the economy, at least so we can offer employment to so many of our out-of-work employees. Without it we may fail. We are in your hands.

Warmest regards -

Eric Nelson
Co-Owner
EEM Portland