

December 17, 2020

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

Subject: To-Go Cocktails

From: Patrick Fleming, Chef/Owner/Restaurateur, Boke Bowl Restaurant

Sobriety Date 03/04/2004

Dear Sir,

I am writing in reference to the ill informed 'notion' that allowing To-Go Cocktails for sale at restaurants would lead to greater alcohol related hospitalizations, fatalities, and COVID spread.

After 16 years of working sober in the restaurant industry it is my opinion that there would be zero correlation between To-Go Cocktails and greater adverse alcohol related incidents. I would argue it is safer to have patrons purchase Cocktails To-Go to bring back to their homes and apartments to consume. Having patrons spend longer periods of time inside establishments drinking has a great risk of spreading COVID and also increases the hazards of getting behind a wheel after consumption.

In terms of To-Go Cocktails attributing to greater rates of addiction and/or relapse is simply an uneducated understanding of addiction. As someone in recovery, what makes me an alcoholic is simply that I am an alcoholic. Getting an overpriced cocktail from a restaurant was not on my radar, and is a lot more complicated than just going to the nearest convenience or liquor store.

Having stayed open since March we have experienced an outpouring of support from the Portland community who continue to want to support our restaurant and bar community. To-Go Cocktails are a great and safe way to drive revenue to our establishment without risking increased alcohol-related incidents nor increased spread Covid.

Regards,

Patrick Fleming