



April 29, 2021

Rep. Marty Wilde, Chair
House Committee on General Government
Oregon House
Salem, Oregon

Re: Oregon Wine Council Supports SB 317

Dear Chair Wilde and members of the committee,

The Oregon Wine Council (OWC) is a statewide advocacy association, and our members represent over fifty percent of the Oregon wine grapes grown, produced and sold. OWC is committed to ensuring the long-term stability of Oregon's wine industry and providing support for every winery and wine business in our state, large and small. We write today to share our support for SB 317 A, which would create parity for single servings of wine under this cocktails-to-go concept.

Recognizing the impact that the pandemic and consequent shutdowns put on our state's restaurants and bars, the Oregon Legislature took action to provide relief to these struggling businesses during the Third Special Session in December. The passage of SB 1801, which has temporarily allowed on-premise sales licensees to sell sealed, single servings of wine, mixed wine or spirits for off-premise consumption was a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, relief is still needed.

The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are pronounced, and many businesses will struggle to recover for the next several years. Yet no industry was hit harder over the last year by the pandemic and the September wildfires than Oregon's food and beverage industry, particularly the wine industry. SB 317 A is a small step towards supporting the recovery of these industries. This bill will allow restaurants to sell single serve glasses of wine, cocktails and mixed wine drinks like mimosas or sangrias. It is critical for our wineries who have not only lost sales to local restaurants and bars, but to consumers who would, in normal circumstances, purchase from their tasting rooms.

The OWC respectfully urges the committee to pass SB 317A and provide needed support for Oregon's wine and hospitality industries.

Sincerely,

Elin Miller
Co-Chair, Board of Directors
Oregon Wine Council

Ken Johnston
Co-Chair, Board of Directors
Oregon Wine Council