



February 1, 2021

Senator Bill Dodd, Chair
Senate Committee on Governmental Organization
1020 N Street, Room 584
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 220 (Skinner) Craft distillers: direct shipping -- OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Dodd,

Alcohol Justice respectfully OPPOSES SB 220 because expanding availability through direct shipment to consumers when age verification and other responsible beverage service practices by 3rd party shippers are not required, effectively applied, or sporadically enforced.

The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control has already documented these problems in direct shipment to consumers. Passing this bill will only increase availability and harmful consumption, especially among underage youth, and therefore negatively impact public health and safety.

There is an ongoing national effort to look into creating model legislation for direct-to-consumer shipping of alcohol. This is being conducted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. It would be wise and prudent for the California Legislature to abandon this bill until the invocation of national legal expertise is completed and recommendations are made. No doubt SB 220 is the result of pressure by craft brewers and the Distilled Spirits Council to jump the gun and liberalize delivery laws and thus threaten further sales through mail and delivery. Craft distillers get tax advantages from distilling and selling to consumers on site, and those advantages should be removed if they are to be allowed direct shipping (whether within or from out of the state). We urge killing this bill.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), California already suffers more annual alcohol-related harm than any other state: over 10,500 alcohol-related deaths, \$35 billion in total costs, \$14.5 billion in state costs. We respectfully ask that you kill this bill in your committee to ultimately prevent additional public health and safety harm.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Lee Livingston".

Bruce Lee Livingston
Executive Director / CEO

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