



February 25, 2021

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

**Re: SB 298 (Dodd) Brewpub-restaurant licenses: exchange for bona fide public eating place license. -- *OPPOSE***

Dear Chairman Dodd,

**Alcohol Justice respectfully OPPOSES SB 298** because it would expand alcohol availability which threatens public health and safety while reducing much-needed license revenue to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC).

When Brewpub licenses were created the regulatory bar was lowered and the result as reported by the ABC was flagrant violation by a majority of the Type 75 licensees investigated. They were not making the beer they were required to make yet profited by having the equivalent of a full-service liquor license for a fraction of the normal cost. This bill does nothing but make that illegal operation legal by removing the requirement to produce beer for a simple \$100 dollar fee.

If this bill passes, and SB 389 also passes, bona fide public eating places will be allowed off-sale rights and privileges as well. All of this adds up to an expansion of alcohol availability that places the value of alcohol sales above public health and safety.

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 this bill be held back 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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