



March 1, 2021

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

Re: SB 314 (Wiener) Alcoholic beverages. -- OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Dodd,

Alcohol Justice respectfully OPPOSES SB 314 because it is another over-reaching grab bag of disparate issues opportunistically promoted by the alcohol industry. It is nothing more than dangerous deregulation for the sake of corporate profits yet masquerading as phony COVID emergency management.

If passed, SB 314 will effectively force the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to reduce important regulations. It will significantly increase the availability of alcohol to an expanding and unknown number of locations, events, and public spaces, thus extensively threatening public health and safety. In addition, it allows advertising time and space to be purchased by producers that is currently prohibited by California Tied-house laws. And it deprives the state of licensing revenue that could be used for programs that would reduce alcohol-related harm.

Furthermore, the bill (Section 23406) allows minors to be in a licensed bar or restaurant that is not simultaneously serving alcohol – a deregulation measure that is impossible to enforce (as ABC would not normally survey a licensee when it is closed or when it is permitted to serve but may choose not to). ABC has long objected to minors being allowed in on-sale settings as it makes enforcement of underage drinking laws difficult.

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 stop this dangerous hodgepodge of 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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