



March 20, 2017

Assemblymember Adam C. Gray, Chairman  
Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization  
1020 N Street, Rm. 156  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax (916) 319-3979

**RE: OPPOSE AB 1046 (Choi) Licenses: sale of soju or shochu.**

Dear Chairman Gray:

Alcohol Justice (formerly Marin Institute) is a respected alcohol industry watchdog that has been a leading alcohol research and advocacy institution for more than 30 years.

Alcohol Justice is opposed to AB 1046 because these are extremely high alcohol content so-called wines, about double the normal ABV. They are nearly tasteless, like vodka, and can be used liberally to make alleged cocktails. AB 1046 also says anybody can call their product shochu or soju and be sold in wine licensed establishment or outlets, even though they function as distilled spirits.

We are also opposed to AB 1046 because greater availability of this product will increase the threat of alcohol-related problems, and California already suffers more than \$35 billion dollars in alcohol-related harm with 10,500 alcohol-related deaths annually.

**Please vote NO on AB 1046.**

Sincerely,

*Bruce Lee Livingston*

Bruce Lee Livingston  
Executive Director / CEO

*cc: - Members of Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization  
- Assemblymember Choi (author) Fax 916 319-2168*