



April 3, 2017

Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas, Chairman  
Assembly Committee on Revenue & Taxation  
1020 N Street, Rm. 167A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax (916) 319-2198

**RE: AB 479 (Gonzalez Fletcher and Cristina Garcia)  
SUPPORT Sales and use taxes: exemption:  
menstrual and incontinence products: alcohol  
beverage taxes: distilled spirits: additional surtax.**

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 supports AB 479 because the liquor tax rate has not been raised in over 25 years. Increasing taxes and prices on alcoholic beverages is an effective, inexpensive, public health strategy for reducing alcohol-related harm and excessive consumption. Higher alcohol prices result in lower consumption, which reduces alcohol harm overall. Higher alcohol prices also make substantial reductions in underage drinking and consumption levels of heavy drinkers. Increasing alcohol taxes is a highly effective tool in reducing a wide range of harm and consequences among all age groups.

Alcohol Justice believes that passage of AB 479 will help reduce California's annual \$35 billion dollars in alcohol-related harm, 10,500 alcohol-related deaths, 17,700 alcohol-related hospitalizations, and \$14 billion cost to government.

**Please vote YES on AB 479.**

Sincerely,

*Bruce Lee Livingston*

Bruce Lee Livingston  
Executive Director / CEO

*cc: - Members of Assembly Committee on Revenue & Taxation  
- Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher (author) Fax 916 319-2180  
- Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (author) Fax 916 319-2158*

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