



March 3, 2021

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

**Re: SB 389 (Dodd. Alcoholic beverages: bona fide public eating place: off-sale privileges
-- OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Dodd,

Alcohol Justice respectfully OPPOSES SB 389 because cocktails-to-go are a bad idea that benefit a licensee's bottom line while threatening public health and safety. Cocktails-to-go have been wisely prohibited since the link to death and injury from drinking and driving became evident. The alcohol industry, constantly seeking opportunities to relax restrictions, have used the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to demand this change. It will always be a bad idea and should never become a permanent privilege.

We need to maintain public health and safety ahead of profits. SB 389 prioritizes alcohol sales from restaurants and bars to-go over planned purchases at licensed retailers. It is important to keep on-sale and off-sale separate to protect our highways from people drinking on their way home, and to limit the number of open containers that will show up in public spaces.

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 bill in your committee to prevent additional public health and safety harm especially to young people.

Kind regards,

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

Bruce Lee Livingston
Executive Director / CEO

Alcohol Justice

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