

My name is Allison Cogen, and I reside and conduct business in Deschutes County. House Bill 2742 would allow holders of the OLCC Off-Premises Liquor license to sell factory-sealed containers of malt beverages that hold more than seven gallons. In my case, this means kegs to-go, directly to consumers, at my place of business, the Bend South Liquor Store. Currently, the Limited On-Premises License allows for the sale of kegs. This change would leave that license as is, while amending the Off-Premises Sales License to allow keg sales within its parameters.

Back in May, I reached out to Representative Leif asking for his help. My husband and I were about to undertake a considerable store expansion project, and our plans included the addition of a walk-in cooler and the ability to sell kegs to-go for our customers who had been requesting them. As a tourist destination, Bend often has out of towners coming for events such as weddings, and we service many businesses that take part in the tourist industry through our store. We are often asked if we can order kegs for events and prior to our remodel we did not have the space to do so, but when I looked into it last spring, I was surprised to see that under the license we hold we are not able to sell kegs.

I believe that the ability to sell kegs to-go would serve as an added convenience for our customers, and would help to fill a need in a market where there is currently limited availability. Right now in Bend, even prior to Covid restrictions, in order to get a keg for an event, a person has to go on limited days directly to the distributor. Customers naturally think that as a liquor store, we can sell kegs, and I am often asked where they can go to get one when we tell them that we are unable to. As a small business owner, I am constantly striving to provide excellent customer service and a one-stop shopping experience for anyone who walks through our doors.

Through this license change, I would be better able to meet the needs of my customers, and customers would be better served with more options of where to go and a more convenient access to goods. If passed, this change would not take place until 2022, after the pandemic has subsided.

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 2742.