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**Senate Committee on Labor and Business
Testimony in Support of SB 317-A
April 29, 2021**

Wine Institute is a public policy association representing 1,000 California wineries and associate members. During the December Special Session (Special Session #3), the Oregon Legislature stepped in and provided much needed help to struggling restaurants and bars, allowing full on-premises sales licensees to temporarily sell single servings of wine, and mixed wine or spirits drinks in safely sealed containers for off-premises consumption via the passage of SB 1801. Wine Institute whole heartedly supported that legislation.

As the one-year anniversary of the initial stay at home order and business shutdowns has passed, it is painfully obvious that it will take significant time for Oregon and the country to fully rebound. The hospitality industry, including wineries, are still in need of help and support. Oregon consumers continue to want safe options to enjoy wine with a meal prepared by their favorite restaurant. We, therefore, thank Senator Beyer for his leadership in introducing this legislation and strongly encourage you to pass SB 317-A to continue the privileges that were temporarily granted in December.

SB 317-A does two things as it relates to wine. First it adds single servings of wine to the provisions of the bill. This will allow restaurants to sell not only cocktails to go but single serve glasses of wine. Secondly the bill redefines mixed drinks as “a beverage that is a combination of wine or distilled liquor and one or more mixers.” This will allow for mimosas and sangrias to be included in the bill’s provisions.

We empathize with the distress facing our Oregon partners in the restaurant and bar industry as COVID-19 restrictions continue. Wineries have been hard hit by the loss of sales to on-premises licensees. Though direct-to-consumer shipment has increased during the pandemic, it has not come close to compensating for the loss of wine sales by restaurants and bars. In addition, wineries have been battered by a perfect storm - COVID-19 related tasting room restrictions and closures, unprecedented wildfires and tariffs.

In states that permit cocktails-to-go, wine is typically included in the privilege. In Ohio, Iowa, DC and Oklahoma, the cocktails-to-go privilege has been made permanent and wine by the glass is included. Many states have granted this privilege, including wine by the glass, on a temporary basis, including California, New York, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, Wyoming and Texas to name a few. For these reasons, Wine Institute supports SB 317-A and respectfully requests that move SB 317-A forward.