



September 1, 2020

The Honorable Frank Hoagland
Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Senate Building, 1st Floor S., Rm. 134
1 Capitol Square,
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, the national trade association representing producers and marketers of distilled spirits sold in the United States, in support of HB 669, legislation that would make permanent Governor DeWine's Executive Order which permits on premise establishments to sell "cocktails to-go."

Thousands of hospitality businesses across Ohio including restaurants, taverns, bars, distilleries and their retail sales operations and tasting rooms have been closed for several weeks. According to the National Restaurant Association, sales at restaurants were down 78 percent in the first few weeks of the nationwide lockdown, causing restaurants to lay off 86 percent of employees. Clearly, this has had a devastating impact on the thousands of people employed by on-premises establishments in Ohio.

Cocktails to go has become a much need lifeline for struggling on premise locations and has now been approved in over 30 states across the country with New Jersey, Illinois, Delaware, Massachusetts, and Iowa becoming the most recent states whose legislatures have passed legislation to extend this much needed business friendly measure.

MAINTAINING RESPONSIBILITY MEASURES WITH COCKTAILS TO-GO

The distilled spirits industry is committed to responsibility and to encouraging adults who choose to drink to do so in moderation. We strongly support tough laws and enforcement that crack down on all impaired driving.

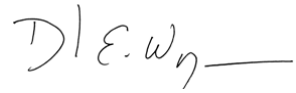
Cocktails to-go are intended for home consumption. In accordance with state laws, no one should be consuming alcohol while in a motor vehicle. That is why we encourage reasonable standards for containers used in cocktails to-go.

Restaurants and bars are continuing responsible practices including ensuring patrons have valid identification verifying that they are 21 years or older.

eTIPS Off Premise and Delivery provides delivery personnel with strategies and guidelines to protect against sales to underage and/or intoxicated customers. TIPS –

(www.gettips.com) a nationally recognized expert in alcohol server training – has created A Guide for Alcohol Delivery and Carry Out (<https://getti.ps/3c5V5aF>).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Wojnar" followed by a horizontal line.

David Wojnar
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Vice President of State Government Relations