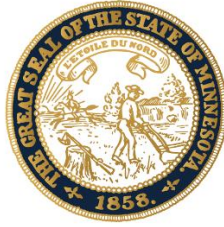


Jon Koznick
State Representative
Assistant Minority Leader

District 58A
Lakeville, Dakota County



Minnesota House of Representatives

April 13, 2020

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

via electronic delivery

Dear Governor Walz:

Emergency Executive Order 20-04, signed on March 16, 2020, closed on-premise service for bars and restaurants in Minnesota. These closures have resulted in significant economic hardship for most small businesses—leading to an unemployment crisis.

Recent data from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development shows that workers from the food service industry account for at least 74,000 of the state's 385,000-plus unemployment insurance applicants.

We appreciate the steps taken in your most recent executive order that allows additional businesses to operate including lawn care, landscaping, agricultural repair, garden centers, nurseries, and more. It is our hope that you will work with us to determine additional ways we can get more Minnesotans back to work.

Today, we are asking you to support wine and beer to go, through an additional emergency order that would provide a temporary change to allow all current on-sale alcohol retailers to sell pre-packaged alcoholic beverages off-sale—both in carry-out and delivery.

Wine and beer sales can account for as much as 50% of a restaurant's profits. Giving restaurants this option is a forward-thinking way we can help them pay their bills and keep Minnesotans employed. Further, permitting local restaurants to convert existing wine and beer inventory into revenue is a more immediate solution than waiting for loan approval.

There are several public safety guidelines that have been considered with an emergency order of this kind. Our proposal with the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association recommends:

- Bars and restaurants would be required to sell food with all Wine & Beer take-out orders
- All alcohol sold off-sale would be in pre-packaged, closed containers
- Beer sales should be limited to pre-packaged products with a maximum of 144 oz per order (12- twelve ounce cans)
- Wine sales should be limited to 1500 ml of wine (2 regular bottles)
- Hard liquor would not be allowed for off-sale by bars and restaurants

- Current rules pertaining to customer age identification and safety would stay in effect
- Cities and Towns have the ability to opt out

The change in law would be in effect until emergency orders temporarily closing bars, restaurants, and other places of public accommodation have been lifted.

Seventeen states and municipalities around the country have temporarily eased regulations to allow restaurants to sell pre-packaged wine and beer off-sale with food orders including Illinois, Iowa, Fargo and Grand Forks, ND, Wisconsin, New York, Maryland, Colorado, New Hampshire, Texas, California, Nebraska, Vermont, Kentucky, Ohio, Atlanta, and Washington D.C.

For the sake of main street restaurants and communities across Minnesota, we urge you to consider this additional flexibility to help these job creators continue operating during the closure of their dining rooms.

We look forward to working with you to balance the health and wellbeing of Minnesotans while helping restaurants and bars keep their businesses operational and their heads above water during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Representative Jon Koznick



Minority Leader Kurt Daudt



Representative Kristin Robbins



Representative Dan Fabian



Representative Paul Anderson



Representative John Poston



Representative Barb Haley



Representative Sandy Layman



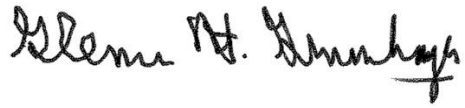
Representative Linda Runbeck



Representative Bud Nornes



Representative Jeff Backer



Representative Glenn Gruenhagen



Representative Tim O'Driscoll



Representative Greg Boe



Representative Joe McDonald