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QuickPoint! – OLCC Provides a Silver Lining in COVID-19 Recovery

By Vlad Yurlov

Alcohol-lovers may have a reason for a toast. Oregon's Liquor Control Commission is taking steps to decrease regulations on sellers, thereby expanding economic opportunity in the food and beverage industry, which was hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 crisis.

Alcohol sales are tightly controlled by the OLCC, which imposes stringent rules on individuals and businesses before, during, and after alcohol purchases. When [restaurants and bars had to close their doors](#) to on-site service due to Oregon's coronavirus response, the OLCC temporarily relaxed some rules regarding alcohol delivery. Because these rules are temporary, though, Oregonians' easier access to wine and microbrews [could once again be limited before this fall](#).

Recently, the OLCC has begun a process to make the temporary relaxation permanent. These changes would allow increased flexibility in how alcohol can be delivered to customers and increase the hours during which alcohol may be purchased. The changes raise the question of why such burdensome restrictions were imposed in the first place.

When Oregon has to close a door, we can open a window. Let's keep economic freedom for Oregon businesses and customers at the forefront of Oregon's rule-making process.

Vlad Yurlov is a Policy Analyst at Cascade Policy Institute, Oregon's free-market public policy research organization.