



# News Release

Oregon Liquor Control Commission  
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April 25, 2014

## **OLCC Commissioners request TTB to reconsider wine growler decision**

**Portland, OR** – At their monthly meeting Friday, April 25, the Commissioners of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission voted to request that the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) reconsider the guidance contained in TTB Ruling 2014-3 in order to allow for sale of wine growlers by licensees who do not qualify as a taxpaid wine bottling house.

“Back in the 1970’s, Oregon wineries set the stage for the growth and innovation of what is now a flourishing alcohol industry in our state,” says OLCC Chair, Rob Patridge. “With increased popularity of growler fill stations, it’s important that we support this growing industry and their ability to sustain job creation and contribution to Oregon’s economy.”

The Commissioners adopted the following changes to administrative rules:  
**[Outdoor Areas Rules Package \(OAR 845-005-0329, 845-005-0331, and 845-006-0309\)](#)** The two new rules establish licensing standards and operating requirements for areas that do not abut a licensed building (i.e., food carts). The changes to the existing rule clarify the criteria apply to an outdoor area that is adjacent to a liquor-licensed building. In an effort to streamline the licensing process, 845-006-0309 would make the license restrictions that the OLCC has previously used when licensing food cart areas unnecessary.

**[Training Brochure Requirement \(OAR 845-009-0130\)](#)** This change reduces the negative economic impact on a business by expanding training options and removing redundancies for off-premises store clerks who are required to hold permits to dispense growlers.

The Commissioners approved three liquor stores to sell beer and wine:  
**Eugene NE, Store #1193**, 1530 Coburg Rd.; Bill Minihan  
**Eugene Downtown, Store #1218**, 401 West 11<sup>th</sup> Ave.; Ken Hand  
**Eugene Westside, Store #1229**, 4325 Commerce St., Suite 112; Tim Woodhead

The Commissioners appointed liquor agents at the following liquor stores:  
**Rockaway, #1104**; Jennifer Ruef  
**Klamath Falls, #1030**; Doris Fronckowiak  
**Prairie City, #1070**; Blaine Huffman  
**North Bend, #1097**; Laurie Dickey  
**Medford West, #1210**; Rachelle Woodward

Retail liquor agents are private, independent contractors; they are not state employees. The Retail Services Division of the OLCC works closely with liquor agents to help them understand and follow liquor regulations and store operating procedures.

The five citizen commissioners are the policy-making body of the OLCC. They meet monthly for one or two days to make decisions on liquor licenses, rules, contested case hearings and appointments of liquor store agents. Commission meetings are held every other month at OLCC's main office, 9079 SE McLoughlin Blvd., Room 103A in Portland. Subsequent months, the meetings are held via phone. Agenda items can be obtained on-line at [http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/public\\_meetings.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/public_meetings.shtml)

##



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Liquor Control Commission

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Portland, OR 97222-7355

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April 25, 2014

In regard to: Wine growers

Administrator John J. Manfreda  
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

Dear Administrator John J. Manfreda:

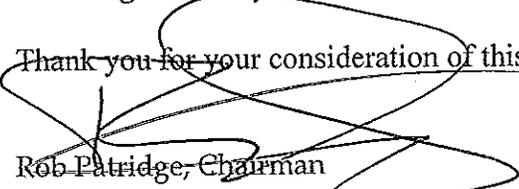
The Oregon Liquor Control Commission has been monitoring the Federal issue of taxpaid wine in growlers very closely. While we understand the need for compliance, we would like to express our support for reconsidering Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) Ruling 2014-3 and allowing the sale of taxpaid wine in growlers by retailers who do not qualify as taxpaid bottling houses. Our hope is that the TTB will consider creating an exemption to make the laws for selling wine and beer in growlers more flexible for state innovation.

As you may know, the state of Oregon has been a leader in supporting the growler business model. During the 2013 legislative session, Governor Kitzhaber signed HB 2443, allowing businesses to sell wine in securely covered to-go containers. This change in state law provided winemakers equal footing with the widespread market access Oregon has created for beer growlers, which has not shown to have an adverse impact to public safety.

Oregon's wine industry creates more than 13,500 local jobs and has a statewide economic impact of \$2.7 billion. Your reconsideration of the issued advisory would greatly help support Oregon's wine industry and support our state's economic recovery.

It is our agency's responsibility to oversee the health and productivity of this industry and to ensure their ability to support job creation and contribution to the Oregon economy. The Commissioners of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission have voted unanimously to request that the TTB reconsider the guidance contained in TTB Ruling 2014-3 in order to allow for sale of wine growlers by licensees who do not qualify as taxpaid bottling houses.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

  
Rob Patridge, Chairman  
Oregon Liquor Control Commission

cc: Governor John Kitzhaber  
Northwest Wine Growers Association  
Oregon Wine Board  
Oregon Congressional Delegation  
Senate President Peter Courtney  
House Speaker Tina Kotek