

Rep. Roger Solum, Chair
Senator Corey Brown, Vice Chair
c/o Legislative Research Council
State Capitol Building
Pierre, SD 57501

June 25, 2014

Dear Representative Solum and Senator Brown,

I am writing to encourage you to lift South Dakota's ban on winery direct shipping. Personally, I'm not a big wine drinker and I doubt I will ever want to have wine shipped directly to me. However, I think removing the ban has a far greater chance of benefitting our state than it does of causing it harm.

I work part-time in a local winery and I feel sheepish when I have to tell South Dakota customers that we do ship wine, but not to them. I think that people should be able to purchase the wine that they want, and not just the wine available at local retailers. There are many tiny communities in our state that are a long way from anywhere.

We aren't exactly on the vanguard of this issue, being the only state in the Midwest to continue a ban on legal, regulated winery to consumer direct shipments. We can look to the success of other states and take this opportunity to increase our state tax revenue, improve our state economy and provide more freedom of choice to consumers who live in South Dakota.

Please include this letter in the hearing record of the Alcohol Study Committee.
Thank you for your service and consideration,

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