

**JANEEN SOLLMAN**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 30



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

December 22, 2020

Timothy G. Sekerak  
Chief Clerk of the House  
Oregon House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation for Senate Bill 1801

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

The hospitality industry, and our restaurants more directly, have suffered greatly through the effects of this pandemic. Open. Close. Indoor. Outdoor. Take-out. I've heard from restaurant owners in House District 30 about their difficulties navigating the myriad of restrictions and options available to try and survive the last nine months. I'm deeply saddened when I hear about the ever-growing list of restaurants that won't be there when we return to indoor dining and attending gatherings. I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues to provide this relief to our restaurant industry, I just don't think that Senate Bill will move the dial as much as is needed. I voted no because of my concerns over the possible unintended consequences and bill's reliance on high-spirited drinks being the silver bullet.

The city of Portland has already passed restrictions on third party food delivery services that are similar to those in SB 1801 and I am dismayed at the stories occurring as a result of its implementation. Many services are simply ignoring the restrictions and Portland hasn't dedicated resources for enforcement, so the abuse continues. For those that do comply, they charge high additional fees to customers which has reduced the volume of orders, and the amount restaurant employees and delivery drivers are making in tips. I also worry that if population centers can't offset the costs of the restrictions in suburban and rural areas that delivery services may abandon those communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic recession have negatively affected many people's mental health. 53% of adults in the United States have reported that the pandemic has negatively affected their mental health. Symptoms of anxiety disorder, depression and thoughts of suicide have increased considerably. I voted no because making alcohol more easily available to Oregonians already suffering through isolation and job losses is not the right move.

Restaurant owners have told me we should be making funds available, through grants and loans, to "just get them through." They asked that we provide fast, reliable testing for employees so that sick workers can stay home and keep restaurants safe. They want us to providing assistance to help them open outdoor dining options. They want us to address the rising unemployment charges they're facing, due to layoffs that were not their fault. The availability of a vaccine has brought hopes of reopening I hope we can address these issues and help restaurants in House District 30 and all across Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janeen Sollman".

Representative Janeen Sollman

