

# Oklahoma State Senate

**Senator Bill Coleman**

**Vice Chairman**

**Business, Commerce & Tourism  
Committee**

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**Committee Membership**

**Appropriations Subcommittee  
on General Government & Transportation**

**Select Committee on Redistricting**

**Transportation**

**Public Safety**

**Rules**

**PROUDLY SERVING SENATE DISTRICT 10**

To: Members of ALEC Commerce Insurance and Economic Development Committee (CIED)

From: Senator Bill Coleman

Date: July 27, 2021

Re: Statement of Principles Regarding Direct Shipment of Spirits

Oklahoma has made considerable progress since 2016 in modernizing our state's sale of spirits. Recently, we passed "drinks to go" and allowing liquor retailers to deliver to customers. This past session I authored several pieces of legislation that provided greater customer access as well as providing spirit and wine retailers greater flexibility in featuring new products.

Most of these issues that I dealt with this past session came about after numerous conversations with wholesalers, retailers, and convenience and grocery stores. One issue that I was briefed on concerns our state's direct to consumer (DTC) of wine. The conversation then shifted to the illegal shipments of spirits being performed by fulfillment houses. In short, I accepted their challenge and ordered two bottles of Jameson. Both shipments had arrived by a carrier although the act of providing and shipping is not allowed in Oklahoma. One bottle was delivered to a drug store who has a partnership with the carrier. The second time the same carrier delivered it to my house without acquiring a signature. They simply left it on the front porch.

Although supportive of the free-market principle that ALEC embodies, I believe that the statement of principles pertaining to DTC of spirits is not well thought out. The state's will bear the responsibility of enforcement as they work to implement this provision once passed by their respective legislature. Our state has had problems fully enforcing DTC of wine which we passed in 2018. While I support customer convenience, I also have a duty to ensure the safety of our consumers and public in general.

Therefore, I urge all members of CIED to carefully consider all the implications that this statement implores and respectfully request that you do not support its passage from the committee.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bill Coleman  
State Senator, District 10