



## King County

### **Dow Constantine**

King County Executive  
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[www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov)

October 21, 2020

The Honorable Claudia Balducci  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed ordinance that, if enacted, will renew and extend a six-month moratorium prohibiting the establishment of new or the expansion of existing wineries, breweries, distilleries and remote tasting rooms. The proposed ordinance will further prohibit the issuance of temporary use permits for these facilities. The proposed ordinance is consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.390), which authorizes local governments to enact moratoriums while in the process of preparing plans and legislation.

The King County Council adopted Ordinance 19030 on December 4, 2019. This ordinance set forth new regulations for wineries, breweries, and distilleries in unincorporated King County. Subsequently, the legislation was appealed to the Growth Management Hearings Board, which issued an order finding the environmental review to be inadequate.

On June 23, 2020, the King County Council approved Ordinance 19122 establishing a moratorium prohibiting the establishment of new or the expansion of existing wineries, breweries, distilleries, and remote tasting rooms for six months the effective date of the ordinance. Ordinance 19122 also directed the Executive to prepare a plan for how King County could comply with the order from the Growth Management Hearings Board and a proposed ordinance that extends the moratorium. The enclosed proposed ordinance would renew and extend the moratorium to allow additional time to evaluate and plan for how King County will comply with the Board's order. As required by Ordinance 19122, a report on the matter will be transmitted to the Council concurrently and under separate cover.

The current moratorium expires in December 2020. It is in the public interest to pause unregulated winery, brewery, and distillery development until further analysis can be completed. The proliferation of unregulated winery, brewery, and distillery developments could negatively impact King County's rural communities.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

October 21, 2020

Page 2

The Washington State Department of Commerce was notified of King County's intent to renew and extend the moratorium on September 22, 2020. The development of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review and threshold determination is currently underway and will be issued before the end of October 2020.

The proposed ordinance advances the Healthy Environment and Economic Vitality goals of the King County Strategic Plan by preserving rural character, supporting productive farms, and fostering appropriate economic development in the Rural Area.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. This proposed legislation will ensure that King County can continue to plan for wineries, breweries, and distilleries and remote tasting rooms in accordance with the board's order.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Lauren Smith, Director, Regional Planning at 206-263-9606.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dow Constantine".

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff  
          Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council  
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive  
Lauren Smith, Director, Regional Planning, Office of Performance, Strategy, and  
Budget