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March 23, 2017

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Director and State Public Health Officer
California Department of Public Health
1615 Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 997377, MS 0500
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Re: AB 1054 (Brough): Powdered Alcohol (Oppose)

Dear Dr. Smith:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on March 2, 2017 to take an Oppose recommendation on AB 1054 (Brough), a bill that would exempt the use of powdered alcohol as an ingredient in non-powdered products and allow for the production, sale, or offering for sale or delivery, receipt, or purchasing for resale powdered alcohol for use as an ingredient in non-powdered products.

Last year CCLHO supported legislation that prohibited the sale and use of powdered alcohol in California. This position reflects the CCLHO view that distribution, sale and use of powdered alcohol poses numerous potential problems, including the possibility of extremely potent beverages and concerns regarding acquisition, concealment, and consumption by minors.

As you are aware, CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now the California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, and commissions, as well as officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

This position of opposition to allowing for some uses of powdered alcohol in the State of California is consistent with CCLHO's legislative priority of providing recommendations on population-based issues that affect the health of all Californians, as alcohol intoxication and its effects burden not only those who consume the products, but affect the population as a whole as well.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ken.Cutler@co.nevada.ca.us or at 530-265-7154.

Sincerely and on behalf of the CCLHO membership,

Original signed by Dr. Ken Cutler

Ken Cutler, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers