



## California Alliance for Hospitality Jobs Newsletter

November 2009

Welcome to the California Alliance for Hospitality Jobs' (CAHJ) first monthly newsletter! With more than 100 new members statewide including local chambers, restaurants, owners, general managers, bartenders and cocktail enthusiasts, we are growing fast and appreciate all of your support.

Recently, an organization called Charge for Harm Alliance held two press conferences, one in Los Angeles and one in San Francisco in support of Assembly member Jim Beall's bill to raise alcohol fees.

If passed, AB 1019 (Beall, D-San Jose) would impose a per drink surcharge on wholesalers located in California who distribute alcoholic beverages to retailers for consumption in California. The surcharge would be based on 1.5 ounces of distilled spirits, 12 ounces of beer, and 5 ounces of wine; resulting in a 22% to 100% price increase on consumers. If the bill does not pass the State legislature in January 2010, it will be reintroduced in February 2010.

**Your support and action is crucial.** We need your help to tell our legislators the way to ensure funding of programs is to have a strong economy and create jobs, not by placing new taxes or fees on struggling small businesses. The legislature just increased the state sales tax by 1% this year, generating an additional \$256.1 million from alcohol sales alone. It's time for lawmakers to stop coming back to consumers and workers for more taxes and fees.

For more information, visit our website, [www.savemycajob.com](http://www.savemycajob.com), and read about ways you can get involved in the CAHJ.

Sincerely,  
The CAHJ Team

## San Francisco Aims to Tax Alcohol

In a move that further burdens struggling San Francisco restaurants, bars and hotels, the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to support state legislation to tax alcoholic beverages (AB 1019). The resolution passed by a vote of 9-0.

Additionally, Supervisor John Avalos is advocating for a fee on alcohol sold in San Francisco. The City is in the early stages of developing its alcohol mitigation fee proposal, and it is currently studying the issue. Of note, a tax must go to the voters and win public approval, while a fee only requires the approval of the Board of Supervisors, not voters.

This alcohol fee would be imposed at the point of wholesale, which would then be passed on to restaurants, bars, and hotels and ultimately, to consumers. If San Francisco passes the fee assessment, other municipalities in California will also look at similar measures.

The hospitality industry is already hurting in San Francisco and statewide. CAHJ is working to dissuade local proposals like these by educating the public and policymakers about how alcohol taxes will cost even more jobs and hinder California's economy even further.

**Do your part and call or write your San Francisco Supervisor today and let them know that you do not support additional fees on alcohol.**

Local retailers, wholesalers and restaurant owners like you need to let your elected officials know that State and local governments should focus on creating jobs and stimulating the economy - not on increasing the burden on small business, workers and families trying to make ends meet.

## In your words...

*"The hospitality industry has already been hit with \$12.5 billion in new taxes this year. Now, politicians at the federal, state and local level are exploring more job-killing taxes on beverage alcohol...when we can least afford it. Higher taxes now would be devastating to my restaurant."*



- Alex Manos, Los Angeles Restaurateur

## TAKE ACTION

Say NO to higher taxes or fees on alcohol!

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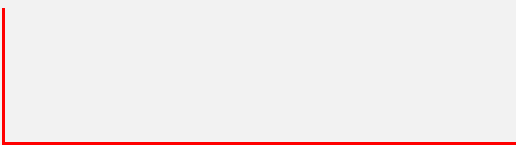
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### Did you know?

California's hospitality industry contributes more than \$52 billion in economic activity and employs 12% of the state's workforce.

### About the Alliance...

The California Alliance for Hospitality Jobs (CAHJ) is a coalition of employers, suppliers, restaurateurs, business owners, trade associations and citizens who work in and with the hospitality industry and are concerned about proposals at the federal, state and local levels to raise alcohol taxes and fees. The alliance is supported by Diageo.

[www.savemycajob.com](http://www.savemycajob.com)