

Turn Down the Volume



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re. Proposed Bill No. 386 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF POWDERED ALCOHOL

My name is Peter Faulk, and I support this Bill - I am a lifetime CT Resident, and I am in Long Term Recovery from the legal drug alcohol. I am just one of more than twenty million people in the US in recovery. I am founder of a not for profit called "Sober World" (SoberWorld.org) promoting the simple message of "*Turning Down the Volume*" of consumption of alcohol. Sober World highlights the positive benefits of less alcohol: saving money, being more productive, sleeping better, less legal issues, less college assaults and date rape, fewer STD's, less incarceration, safer roads, lower insurance rates, lower taxes and more.

The Sober World message aligns with global initiative from the World Health Organization goal to reduce the Non Communicable Diseases (NCD's) – 25% by the year 2025. Alcohol target is 10% reduction of the 3.3 Million deaths - roughly the population of CT.

"Powdered Alcohol" or "Palcohol" as it is commonly known is very much like packets of KOOL AID. A new convenient way to package, distribute alcohol in single dose pouches. Lighter, less freight, less waste, less packaging and easier to carry.

The "Palcohol" product was briefly approved and then repealed by the US Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) in 2014 – but it has sparked a wave of media attention and vehement opposition from legislators around the country and many US States started addressing (banning) this in advance in 2014.

The Concerns per a presentation by Steve Schmidt Sr. VP, Public Policy/Communications
National Alcohol Beverage Control Association (NABCA) - Presentation dated 12/2014

CHILD ACCESS • SNORTING • OVERUSE MULTIPLE PACKETS TOGETHER
COMBINING WITH LIQUID SPIRITS • COMBINED WITH ENERGY DRINKS
EASY TO HIIDE IN PROHIBITED EVENTS

A brief History by State / Date derived from the presentation:

1978 California Regulated and taxed as any distilled spirit with volume calculated in wine gallons
1998 Alaska – May not sell in powdered for for Human Consumption
2014 Banned in Vermont, Louisiana, South Carolina, Michigan
2014 Considering - Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, New York and New Jersey

Recent activity since that presentation...

2015 Pennsylvania has banned it – Denied listing of Products entirely as of Feb 11, 2015

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Summary:

I personally agree with the Ban of the product in CT...for (2) Reasons...

- 1 - In my experience, the ability conceal – abuse, sneak that will cause even more problems than we already have – It will be near impossible to detect without odor, it can put in capsules, compressed, ingested in dry form, added to existing drinks for higher doses. The powder offers countless ways to incorporate it into foods, frostings, and more – and to possibly overdose unintentionally. Those people seriously addicted to alcohol can easily ingest at work and not smell. Law Enforcement will be much tougher, there are so many ways to use this powdered form in products not intended.
- 2 - It also sets a bad precedent – Alcohol is no longer a 'crafted social product' – like a fine CT Wine, a local crafted Brew. Now – it's just a drug. A pile of Powder is not our culture, our history, our society. We drink ideally to be social... there is nothing social about foil pouches for personal ease of consumption that the CEO touts as great to take on Hikes Kayaking trips.
- Of note – there is a proposed 'Commercial' Grade of Palcohol – a much higher Alcohol level, not 'intended' for human consumption (windshield washer fluid, military fuel etc) – we need to be careful this is not accessible to our markets for fear of dilution and abuse by addicts and thrill seeking kids.

Many FEAR Palcohol - we are afraid of it because of the unknowns. The unknown quantity of disruption and disorder and death it will bring to our society scares us – so we enact laws to 'make it go away'.

Note that FEAR is often why people drink to excess. If you look beyond the immediate problem of drinking and drugs, you see what most choose not to see. People have fears of economic insecurity, job loss, abuse, relationship changes, life stress. They self medicate to eliminate fear.

In my opinion – based on my experience with addiction and recovery... If you want to make progress in the battle against excessive alcohol and drugs - work tirelessly towards reducing fears here in CT – make it a safe, productive place to love to live, and be a part of. Do this and you will most surely help to 'Turn Down the Volume' a bit on drug and alcohol consumption, addiction, incarceration and make the state of CT a more Sober World.

Peter Faulk - Founder
Bills Blend Coffee and Sober World

Sources:

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<http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/data-stats.htm>
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/270897.php>
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