



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

August 28, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 2459 (Bigelow) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I respectfully request your signature on Assembly Bill 2459. AB 2459, authored by Assembly Member Frank Bigelow, relates to on-sale alcoholic beverage licenses in Mariposa and Napa Counties. RCRC is an association of thirty-seven rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties.

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) regulates the application, issuance, and suspension of alcoholic beverage licenses. Since 1939, the set number of retail licenses to sell alcoholic beverages on or off the premises has been limited based on population ratios. The ABC currently does not consider the number of visitors to a given county when determining the ratio of licensed premises.

AB 2459 would authorize the ABC to issue up to 10 additional new original on-sale alcoholic beverage licenses to bona fide public eating places in Mariposa County that have a seating capacity for 50 or more persons. AB 2459 would authorize the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors to determine the number of licenses to be issued under this section in a given year, not to exceed 5. These new licenses cannot be transferred out of Mariposa County or to an establishment that does not qualify under the provisions. Additionally, AB 2459 would authorize the ABC to issue up to 10 additional new original on-sale alcoholic beverage licenses bona fide public eating places in Napa County that have a seating capacity for 25 or more persons, for a 5-year period.

In many of RCRC member counties, tourism is the economic engine of the local economy and can draw millions of visitors annually from across the globe. The limited number of alcoholic beverage licenses in Mariposa and Napa Counties does not reflect the increasing tourist population that visits these counties each year and the growing need

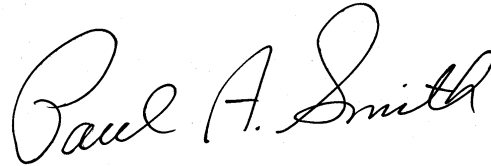
1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | [www.rcrcnet.org](http://www.rcrcnet.org) | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Assembly Bill 2459  
August 28, 2020  
Page 2

of lodging with full food and beverage service. We believe AB 2459 would benefit Mariposa and Napa Counties as the number of visitors continue to grow.

Again, RCRC respectfully requests your signature on AB 2459.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "P" and "S".

PAUL A. SMITH  
Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs

cc: The Honorable Frank Bigelow, Member of the State Assembly  
The Honorable Bill Dodd, Member of the State Senate  
The Honorable Andreas Borgeas, Member of the State Senate  
Members of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors  
Members of the Napa County Board of Supervisors