Rationale for Proposed Changes to Washington State Homemade Beer and Wine RCW (66.28.140)

Overall Goal:

Promote Washington's homemade beer & wine production community and image with concise, logical regulations.

Core Reasons for Legislative Changes:

- Create an environment fostering community-based improvement for the future leaders of Washington's tax-generating craft beer and wine industries
- Allow enjoyment of homemade beer and wine as a savored and respected component of Washington culture
- Allow grass-roots community involvement in home and craft production movements.

- Allow for clear application with consistent and practical regulation wording

Current legislation:

- Does not promote the evolution of today's Washington home beer and wine makers into tomorrow's craft brewers and vintners
- Does not allow sharing of homemade beer or wine between citizens outside of the house of production
- Prevents Washington from opportunities to host tourism events such as the National Homebrewers Conference (~1,000 attendees)
- Quote from Brewer's Association Representative:

"The restriction on homebrew being available outside the home for judging purposes only will keep the AHA National Homebrewers Conference out of Washington."

- Does not consistently apply to beer and wine events and hinder practical transportation of homemade beer or wine. This renders the code impossible to meaningfully enforce & extremely difficult to confidently comply with.
- Does not promote collaborative homemade beer or wine evaluation and improvement

Proposed Legislation Will Not:

- Change amount of homemade beer or wine produced per household
- Allow access to homemade beer or wine to minors

Legislation Will:

- Stimulate Washington's craft beer and wine industry's future craft brewers and vintners
- Allow Washington to be a candidate for the National Homebrewers Conference and other tourism generating events
- Promote Washington's pioneering beer and wine heritage
- Allow community involvement in craft production movements
- Correctly and consistently phrase terminology regarding homemade beer and wine production