



# News Release

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For immediate release: Thursday, October 28, 2010

## **OLCC warns public about concerns for alcoholic energy drinks**

**Portland, OR** Recent unfortunate events regarding minors in Washington State who were sent to the hospital after drinking caffeinated alcoholic beverages has brought to light concerns that the Oregon Liquor Control Commission has shared for some time.

"These are relatively new products with little to no research on the health risks associated with consumption," says OLCC Chairman, Philip Lang. "In my opinion, alcoholic energy drinks should be removed from the market until further research is done." Lang is supportive of local moderation group Oregon Partnership's efforts to alert the public to the dangers of alcoholic energy drinks.

OLCC is reviewing options to help address the public safety concerns created by these products. In addition to working with moderation groups, the agency is exploring possible solutions with legislators about further regulation, and contacting alcohol regulatory agencies in other states. While these products are currently being reviewed by the federal drug administration, several local grocery stores have voluntarily pulled these products.

Research continues to show that parents remain a major influence in kids' lives. The OLCC encourages parents to talk to their children (elementary to college) about the dangers of underage drinking and binge drinking. The OLCC/ODOT video, *Wasted*, can help initiate those conversations. <http://www.youtube.com/user/OLCC2008>

Additional information on the dangers of look-alike alcohol energy drinks can be found: [http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/alcohol\\_energy\\_drinks.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/alcohol_energy_drinks.shtml)

For more information about alcohol and minors, visit our website, [http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/alcohol\\_and\\_minors.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OLCC/alcohol_and_minors.shtml)

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*Promoting the public interest through responsible alcohol sales and service.*

*Did you know that in the last two years, the OLCC distributed more than \$343 million to Oregon's General Fund, Cities, Counties, and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs? [See the distribution of dollars on OLCC's Website.](#)*