



KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For Immediate Release
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July 21, 2005
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VAN ROY SAYS "PUT A CORK IN IT"

Introduces Wine Doggy Bag Bill

MADISON – State Rep. Karl Van Roy (R-Howard) announced today that he will be introducing legislation aimed at allowing wine consumers at restaurants to fully enjoy their purchases. Rep. Van Roy calls it a bipartisan effort and says that he is working closely with the bill's other principal authors, Rep. Don Pridemore (R-Hartford) and Rep. Bob Ziegelbauer (D-Manitowoc).

"We think that adults should be treated like adults," said Van Roy. "There's no reason that a responsible person shouldn't be able to take a partially consumed bottle of wine home from dinner."

Van Roy says that the bill will allow consumers who have purchased a bottle of wine with a meal to take it home with them if they are unable to finish it. The bill allows the restaurant to reseal the bottle by forcing the cork flush with the top and will also require the consumer to get a receipt showing that the bottle was purchased with food.

"We believe that this bill will help restaurants sell more wine and reduce drunk driving because the pressure to finish an entire bottle will be lessened," said Van Roy. "It's a double positive."

Rep. Van Roy says that more than 30 other states already allow wine doggy bags. Most recently Michigan and Florida have looked at ways to allow responsible citizens to take home unfinished bottles of wine.

"As chair of the Assembly Small Business Committee, I am always looking at ways to help out small businesses in Wisconsin," said Van Roy. "As a former restaurant owner myself, this struck me as a subtle reform that could help both businesses and consumers."

Van Roy says that wine consumers will still have to comply with Wisconsin's open container laws after leaving the restaurant and entering their vehicles. Under the bill, wine doggy bags will not be allowed on purchases made after midnight.

"It's time to quit acting like a nanny state," said Van Roy. "Let's put a cork in the law that prohibits adults from being treated as such."

The Wine Doggy Bag bill is being introduced for co-sponsorship today as LRB 3162/1. Van Roy said that he hopes to pass the bill speedily when the legislature returns to session this fall.

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