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Federal Ruling Gives Urgency for Wisconsin to Ban Powdered Alcohol
Ruling clears way for “Palcohol” sales unless states ban it.

Madison – State Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) announced that yesterday’s federal ruling allowing the sale of powdered alcohol – unless states ban it – gives urgency to quickly pass his bill to outlaw the sale of powdered alcohol in this state (Senate Bill 10).

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau noted that regardless of its approval for sale, states can also regulate alcohol sales in their borders.

The manufacturer of Palcohol states that it could be sold as soon as this summer.

“We need to move forward quickly to ban the sale of powdered alcohol before it becomes available this summer. The potential for abuse just is too great to justify this type of product. Today I reached out the chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety and request that a public hearing on this bill be set quickly,” said Carpenter.

Senator Carpenter expressed concern that such a powder would make it easy to sneak the substance into sporting events or after-school functions. “It is not so easy to hide a fifth of vodka in your pocket, but packets of powder could be easily hidden in pockets or backpacks, making enforcement very challenging,” said Carpenter.

Carpenter noted that powdered alcohol will be marketed in envelopes like the ones for Kool-Aid. “This really increases the risk that someone, especially kids, could mistake the powder for something else and ingest it accidentally,” said Carpenter.

“It took several tragic deaths before the sale of alcohol laced energy drinks and ‘bath salts’ were pulled off the market. I just don’t think we need to wait for similar tragedies to happen,” said Carpenter.

Alaska, Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina and Vermont have already banned powdered alcohol, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Iowa, Colorado, Minnesota, Ohio, and New York also are considering bans.

Senator Carpenter’s press releases are available for review at
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sen03/news>

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