



# OREGON'S SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

## The USPS Shipping Equity Act

### *Summary*

#### **The Problem**

Unlike private shippers, USPS delivers to every address in the country. Unfortunately, **unlike its competitors, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) cannot ship beer, wine, or distilled spirits because of a Prohibition-era ban.** This puts USPS at a competitive disadvantage against private shipping companies such as UPS and FedEx, and limits shipping options for producers and customers.

As the Postal Service faces challenges in the competitive shipping market, the *USPS Shipping Equity Act* would generate an estimated \$190 million annually in new revenue for the Postal Service.

The Postal Service needs innovative solutions that meet the demands of consumers' shifting purchasing habits and that help small and independent breweries, wineries, and distilleries grow using another avenue of getting their product to market.

#### **The Solution**

The *USPS Shipping Equity Act*, led by Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), and Representative Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA):

- Removes the prohibition on shipping alcoholic beverages through USPS.
- Retains state and local control of alcohol.
  - Requires USPS alcohol shipments to comply with state and local laws in force at the point of delivery.
  - Does not pre-empt State, Local, or Tribal laws that prohibit or regulate delivery, shipment, or sale of alcoholic beverages.
- Requires USPS to set up regulations, with some requirements:
  - Shippers must register with Treasury, the federal regulator of alcohol;
  - Recipients must be 21 or older, with valid government-issued ID; and
  - Shipments only to consumers – deliveries cannot be for resale or commercial.

**Endorsers:** American Postal Workers Union, National Association of Letter Carriers AFL-CIO, Brewers Association for Small and Independent Craft Brewers, American Craft Spirits Association, Distilled Spirits Council, National Association of Postal Supervisors, National Postal Mail Handlers Union, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, WineAmerica.