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*Sharon Mackay*

July 25, 2002

J. Cramp  
POB 3004  
Park City, UT 84060  
GOVERNOR'S  
OFFICE

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Subject: Can we relax the alcohol laws a little?

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am uncertain if this letter will fall on deaf ears, but I hope that you understand what compels me to write it. If nothing else, maybe you will find the story illustrative of how far removed some of the Utah laws are from the rest of mainstream America.

The saga begins with a recent trip my wife and I made to Napa Valley, California with two other couples, both long-time friends of ours. Those other couples were from Arizona and Illinois. During our stay in Napa Valley we discovered a wonderful small winery and all of us loved their new Cabernet Sauvignon wine. In celebration of our excellent find we each decided to purchase one case (12 bottles) of this wine and have it shipped directly to our respective homes.

You can imagine our surprise when we were informed by the winery that while the residents of Arizona and Illinois would be allowed to do this, we as residents of Utah could not. In fact, UTAH is the only state out of the lower 48 states that the wineries are forbidden to ship small quantities of wine to. Further research at other vineyards confirmed this. So, my wife and I were unable to purchase the wine, while our companions were able to do so. Doesn't this seem a bit overboard to anyone out there?

Why would UTAH wish to restrict such a small liberty to its residents, while every other state allows it? Maybe it is just an oversight, and if so, could we please correct it? However, most of the people we talked to are under the impression that it is because of some kind of religious extremism present in our state, in the form of a Mormon influenced legislature. I certainly hope that this is not the case, but you must admit that this type of law makes Utah look a bit wacko to everyone else in the country (including ourselves).

In any event, we are not Mormon and while we do support their right to practice their faith as they wish, we certainly do not support their claim to choose what wines we wish to drink or to have shipped to our homes for our own personal consumption. So, in closing, could someone tell me what has to be done to get this rather ridiculous law modified?

In case you wish to know more about us, we are full-time residents of Park City, Utah. We own our own home, I work for a large corporation and my wife owns her own business. We happily pay our taxes and we vote. With all due respect, we do not appreciate having our personal interests so narrowly restricted by the state government when there is no good cause for doing so. We are very much looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



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