



Policy, Mission Survey Update and New Podcast

Greetings!

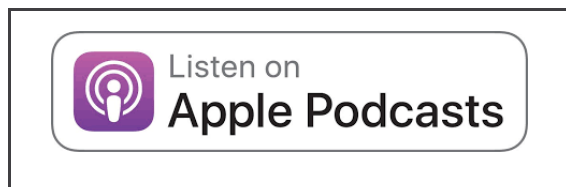
We are excited to share with you the latest legislative updates, the results of a survey where we sought feedback on how to best serve our network of allies going forward, and our latest podcast episode on natural winemaking with Tony Coturri.

Today's Podcast Episode

Today's podcast is oh so fun! Tony Coturri is the nation's Godfather of natural wine. For decades he has used only wild yeast in the vineyard to commence fermentation, never added sulfur to manage the natural biology in the juice and never applied toxic chemicals in the field. He has built a global reputation and a cult following and is riding the natural wine wave now breaking globally. He is a great interviewee and his success is an indicator of an awakening, particularly celebrated by the latest generation of wine makers and drinkers. This interview is the first in a new thread to be periodically featured on Flipping the Table. It is all about the new natural beverage paradigm. We'll feature makers, growers and devotees committed to getting closer to nature through what they imbibe.



Click on iTunes or Spotify to listen to **Part I and Part II** of the interview.



ROC Network Survey Results

At the end of 2018, we sent sixty representatives from our network of allies, financial supporters and advisors a survey to get some constructive feedback that could help us to hone our mission and update our branding in 2019. Here is what we learned and what

are doing about.

Our first question sought to clarify if people understand our focus. Generally, respondents realize we have been focused on policy and food system change campaigns.

We got a fairly tight list of strengths: our relationships with key influencers, a large network, a powerful vision and strong leadership.

The list of weaknesses is a bit more dispersed and yet excellent food for thought. Some respondents felt we lacked focus. Another group felt we lacked capacity given our large mission and they'd like to see more ROC whitepapers and positions on issues. A few say there is "too much Dimock" and/or "white male leadership." Finally, a small group feel we need to check in with allies more often, are too focused on justice and not enough on agriculture, particularly conventional agriculture.

When we asked what respondents think ROC could provide that would serve them, another interesting set of comments emerged: link the food movement to other progressive movements; find common ground between consumers and advocates; increase our focus on education. In a related question, we asked respondents to rate some activities we thought might be of value.

Here are the results:

1. **Direct advocacy with senior policy maker: 82% Extremely or very valuable**
2. **Policy development & campaign organizing: 73% Extremely or very valuable**
3. **Collaborative fundraising: 64% Extremely or very valuable**
4. **Dialogues with industrial/conventional agriculture: 55% Extremely or very valuable**
5. **Consultation and strategy planning: 50% Extremely or very valuable**
6. **Social media and outreach to the public: 45% Extremely or very valuable**

Here is what the survey has led us to do:

- First, we launched the [Flipping the Table podcast](#) to provide a truly educational component to our work and to provide a larger diversity of voices, views and opinions through ROC's channels.
- Second, we are updating the ROC website to reflect our tight focus on policy, education and collaboration.
- We launched our consulting work and will be serving as an ally to the [UC Davis Agriculture Sustainability Institute](#) for a series of 10-12 dialogues up and down the state. It will include agriculture and change advocates of many types and is designed to broaden the connections between scientists and farmers, ranchers and advocates seeking to help their communities thrive in this challenging century.
- We will also try to raise funds in ways that benefit allies, as well as ROC, and thereby strengthen our capacity to deliver more.

The survey results were quite enlightening and provided momentum for changes needed and appropriate to the current conditions. **Thank you to all who offered input.**

Legislative Update

We are hoping for some key successes this year. Half of our priority bills remain alive in the Legislature. Three of our four top priority bills have made it the floor in the first house. Sadly, the one bill held is our highest priority: the tax on harmful sugary drinks. It may rise again in 2020. Of the remaining twelve bills, one may not be needed because Governor

Newsom has banned the use of the toxic chemical targeted by the bill. Five others face a floor vote by May 31st. Below see the full list of our priority bills and their status. In June we will let you know which bills live on in the second house.



Four Highest Priority Bills

AB 138 California Community Health Fund. Richard Bloom (Santa Monica)
Taxes sugary beverage distributors to create a California Community Health Fund to support prevention and treatment of disease. **HELD IN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON REVENUE & TAXATION. MAY MOVE NEXT YEAR.**

SB 200 Safe & Affordable Drinking Water Fund. Bill Monning (Carmel)
Provides clean water in area where it does not exist with funds from a fee on fertilizer, dairies and water users. **NOW ON SENATE FLOOR.**

SB 499 CA-Grown for Healthy Kids Act. Mike McGuire (Healdsburg)
Provides 10 cents more to meal budgets for the purchase of fresh, CA-grown fruits and vegetables by school districts or charters that provide free breakfast and lunch in high-poverty schools. **NOW ON SENATE FLOOR.**

AB 409 Ag Adaptation Tools. Monique Limon (Santa Barbara)
Establishes a grant program to aid farmers and ranchers who work to increase resilience of their operations and prioritizes support for small-scale and farmers of color. **NOW ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR.**

Other Priority Bills

AB 5 Fair classification of workers. Author Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (South San Diego)
Stops companies from misclassifying their workers as independent contractors in order to lower employer obligations. **NOW ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR.**

SB 285 CalFresh Connect. Author Anthony Wiener (San Francisco)
Improves CalFresh improve enrollment, especially among those receiving Medi-Cal with special attention to seniors through simplified applications and retention systems. **NOW ON SENATE FLOOR.**

AB 534 Plan for a Hunger-Free California. Author Chad Mayes (Yucca Valley)
Requires a multiagency plan to end hunger in California and creation of grant program to develop rural food hubs. **DIED IN ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS.**

AB 764 Sugary beverage marketing limits. Author Rob Bonta (Alameda)
Restricts beverage companies from offering and funding certain promotional and marketing activities for sugar-sweetened beverages. **NOW ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR.**

AB 765 Healthy Checkout Aisles for Healthy Families Act. Author Buffy Wicks (Oakland)
Requires a store to place only milk and natural fruit and vegetable juice in the checkout areas of the store. **STOPPED BEFORE ITS FIRST COMMITTEE.**

AB 1022 California Anti-Hunger Response & Employment Training Act. Author Buffy Wicks (Oakland)
Establishes a training program to fight hunger among individuals who have been determined ineligible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by a cruel federal time limit. **NOW ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR.**

AB 842 Hunger-Free Preschool. Monique Lemon (Santa Barbara) and Susan Eggman (Stockton)

Ensures that all low-income, public preK students have access to a free- or reduced-price meals and all childcare providers utilizing the ChildCare Food Program receive supplemental state funding. **NOW ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR.**

AB 958 Organic-to-School Pilot Program. Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (Winters)

Creates a pilot competitive grant program for public school districts to receive up to 15 cents extra per meal to support procurement of California-grown organic foods. **DIED IN ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS.**

SB 45 Wildfire, Drought, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2020. Bill Dodd (Napa)

Funds alternative agriculture practices that promote healthy soils, climate resilience, sustainable groundwater management and carbon sequestration and more. **DIED IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS.**

AB 293 Greenhouse Gases: Ag Lands Offsets. Eduardo Garcia (Coachella)

Requires adoption of additional greenhouse gas offsets to enhance management, conservation or restoration of natural, wetlands and agricultural lands. **HELD IN COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.**

SB 458 Protect Children from Brain Damaging Chlorpyrifos. Maria Elena Durazo (Los Angeles)

Prohibits use of the neurotoxic insecticide chlorpyrifos in California. **HELD IN SENATE APPROPRIATIONS, BUT GOVERNOR BANNED USE, BILL MAY NOT BE NEEDED.**

AB 986 Agricultural Land. Robert Rivas (Hollister)

Creates a grant program that will aid in planning to support socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to access land. **DIED IN ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS.**

Thank you!



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