

# COPPER CANE

WINES & PROVISIONS

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*Dear Oregon Legislature Members:*

*Please accept our testimony regarding the grower and vintner legislation under review this week, considering these points.*

*1). Copper Cane paid over \$15K in grape tax in the state of Oregon during 2018 and has played a role in paying grape tax in the past. Do not allow the OWA and Jim Bernau make false claims to the contrary. Copper Cane supports out of state vintners paying the grape tax and we believe legislation is not needed to make this happen. We are testament to the statement.*

*2). Some of the proposed legislation would suggest that new regulations would be assessed looking back three prior years, using new rules, despite the fact that the Certificates of Label Approval had been granted by the TTB for every label in the market today.*

*3). This legislation is dividing the state of Oregon's vintners and growers without any real effort toward unification. What was once a labeling legislative action has ballooned into an ill-conceived mess of hurdles for out of state vintners, changes that would harm Oregon growers and grandfathered exclusions for an elite set of Willamette Valley producers crafting the legislation.*

*4). Out of state vintners are utilizing nearly 40% of Oregon's fruit and helping grow the Oregon wine market share for the state. The lack of collaboration in the process to change the law, channeled by Jim Bernau and the OWA continues to make false statements, misrepresenting the truth and going back and forth with slanderous claims to get their way, against the will of many in the industry.*

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5). *The Oregon wine industry is thriving and is growing locally, nationally and internationally today. The legislation proposed, harms growers, puts out of state vintners in a state of confusion while risking existing state revenue.*

*Help create a substantive, well thought-out and collaborative solution with full transparency through an industry working group not led by the OWA this summer. The OWA has demonstrated bias and deceit, while not representing the entire state of growers and vintners. In the interim, address the grape tax as a singular work stream with an adjustment to current guidelines.*

*Thank you for the consideration and making a difference in the State of Oregon~*

*Jim Blumling  
Vice President of Operations*

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