



March 22, 2021

Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chair Moore-Green and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3377. The Oregon Beer & Wine Distributors Association (OBWDA) represents Oregon's local, independent beer and wine distributors. OBWDA members employ thousands of Oregonians, contribute to multiple Oregon charitable organizations, and live and work in our communities. With our partners including Oregon farmers, brewers, wineries, restaurant, retailers and thousands of employees, our sector generates more than \$3 billion in Oregon wages and nearly \$12.5 billion in economic activity, including over local 70,000 jobs.

Oregon's alcohol sector was not consulted in the drafting of HB 3377 nor its companion tax bill, but we *wholeheartedly support* solving Oregon's substance abuse problem with informed, collaborative, and targeted solutions. We implore the Committee to examine existing alcohol revenues (the third largest source of revenue for Oregon) and existing addiction treatment funds, how they are spent and whether that money could be better used to combat substance use disorder. This must be done before we can talk about whether targeting local businesses and local jobs is the right approach.

We patently reject and are deeply offended by the continued rhetoric perpetuated by Oregon Recovers that seeks to villainize homegrown businesses (specifically beer and wine distributors) and the Oregonians with beer, wine, spirits and hospitality jobs. Weaponizing advocacy is not the Oregon Way and it is not a path that will lead to a comprehensive, bipartisan solution. The problem requires many parties representing diverse interests coming together for the sake of our communities, which we care deeply about.

We testified before Oregon's Alcohol & Drug Policy Commission (ADCP) last summer with the offer to be partners in an effort to curb alcohol substance abuse in Oregon. We standby that offer. We've made that same offer to legislators and to Oregon Recovers. In January, the Oregon Beer & Wine Distributors Association publicly supported and offered testimony on HB 2313 in front of your committee, which would allow the ADPC to fund and finish their statewide program gap analysis. The Oregon Health Authority, the ADPC work, and a review of the Secretary of State's audit of OHA show that Oregon's behavioral health system is fragmented, and Oregon does not monitor current spending on behavioral health programs and whether they are producing the desired outcomes. We need data in order to identify gaps and find efficiencies in our behavioral health delivery systems. We need to know what's working and what isn't before tackling the funding and pricing questions. That is why the logical next step in this process is to gather information to evaluate current funding for addiction, how we can better use that funding, whether current addiction programs are working and where there are gaps that need to be filled.

Let's be partners in this effort. Beer, wine and spirits have long been something that brings people together and allows for lawmakers to reach across the aisle. We hope others will stop the vilifying. Our state needs us working together.

Thank you,

*-Danelle Romain*

Oregon Beer & Wine Distributors Association Executive Director