



Mcmenamins

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the McMenamins family and employees in support of SB 316, an important piece of legislation that will allow us to continue to grow and employ more Oregonians in the distillery industry while showcasing the craft spirits that Oregon has to offer.

As a company, we have a long history of working with legislators to enact laws that now shape our state. In 1985, McMenamins played a crucial role in drafting and passing brewery legislation that would lead to Oregon becoming renowned as a nationwide capital for craft beer. We became a producing member of the Oregon winemaking community in 1990, and we opened our first distillery at McMenamins Edgefield in 1998. We now have six full time distillers and operate 12 tasting rooms and outlets that feature our 20 products. Each of those products showcase the rich and diverse bounty of our region by including locally-sourced raw materials.

Since our founding, we have actively pushed for legislation that seeks to lift up and support the small businesses within our industry that distinguish our state as a leader in craft beer, wine, and spirits. We do not take lightly our responsibility as a large company to lead by example, and we choose bills to support very carefully. This is one of those important legislative changes that will help our economy and state thrive and rise as a leader in innovative manufacturing and sale of fine spirits.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit our industry hard. Not just that, it hit the entire economy hard. We believe SB 316 can help small spirit manufacturing businesses get back on their feet, further support our local agricultural producers and farmers, and speed up the economic recovery we all want to see.

When the pandemic first hit, the distilling community put business aside and diverted resources into making much needed hand sanitizers for frontline workers and the broader community. We jumped in with no hesitation to support our state when inventory of these products was in short supply. We now are asking for Oregon's help in return. If SB 316 is passed, our industry can employ more people, create more unique products that characterize our state, increase the profitability of tasting rooms, and better shape a craft distillery industry that can truly make Oregon a better place to live and visit.

We thank you for taking the time to read our letter in support of SB 316, and we hope you will consider our thoughts when making your decisions.

Sincerely,

Clark McCool on behalf of the McMenamins team