

Good morning Chairs and members of the committee –

My name is Traci Brumbles and I have been the agent in Rainier for 20 years. I'm here today to show my support for HB 5018. In the time I've been a liquor agent, I have sat in front of many committees to ask for our compensation rate to be raised. I am sure over the years you have heard many testimonies concerning liquor agent compensation. It seems we are here every biennium asking for more. It is tedious on both our ends. Liquor agents have seen tremendous increases in our store expenses. Everything from the ever-increasing minimum wage, lease and rent hikes, daily expenses, insurance costs and even increased staffing due to the pandemic.

Now for the real reason we are here - HB 5018. In doing my research I feel HB 5018 will be a fix to an ongoing problem, outdated liquor agent compensation. This idea was a cooperative effort between agents and the OLCC. It has been well received and garnered the most support of anything presented over the years. With this bill I feel it updates compensation with something that will see years of solid ground. This is a plan, where agents will finally see some financial security.

We did get a small increase last session. Sad to say, the dollars I saw for the year did not come close to covering the rising store costs I've absorbed. This new forward thinking compensation plan takes the data used by the State in minimum wage, and rent costs then applies them in a realistic fashion. I feel HB 5018 aligns more with today's way of doing business. The passing of this bill will help liquor agents to continue our efforts of being the drivers of Oregon's unique distilled spirits program.

Thank you for your time and I hope you also see the value of the investment in HB 5018.