

Submitter: Casey Richwine

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2976

My name is Casey Richwine, I'm co-founder and Chief Product Officer for Straightaway Cocktails. We're a distillery in Portland that opened our doors in December of 2018, and currently have 34 employees. I wanted to officially disclose our support for HB2976 for the formation and funding of the Oregon Spirit Board. We feel this is an important step in the promotion of all Oregon produced spirits both inside and outside the state, as well as creating more tourism to our local tasting rooms.

We started our business in Oregon because this is our home, and because there's a great community of distillers here. As native Oregonians, we are partnering with other local business such as Smith Tea and Stumptown Coffee to build products, and engage and grow their business, as well. We utilize local ingredients and producers whenever possible, like Freddy Guy's Hazelnuts and Flying Bee Honey. We also get much of our equipment locally, like processing and storage tanks from ICC Northwest. With the passing of HB2976, we look forward to the continued growth of not just our business, but those we partner with. We believe the OSB would help us to grow distribution and tasting room sales, allowing us to reinvest in both our business and Oregon. It would allow us to scale production and equipment, hire more staff and give back to the community.

While we are a small company, social responsibility and taking care of our community is incredibly important to us. With HB2976 allowing us, and others like us, to thrive, we hope to do good by doing well. We currently participate in 1% for the Planet and are in process of being B-Corp certified, furthering our commitment to our employees and community. During the pandemic, we were able to donate 1000 gallons of hand sanitizer to the Oregon Food Bank, and hundreds of gallons to local Native American tribes, as our way of serving Oregonians during difficult times. We hope to continue to be able to provide for those around us.

I look forward to your support of HB2976.

Cheers,  
Casey Richwine  
Co-Founder/CPO