

March 1, 2023

Oregon Legislators,

Branch Point Distillery is a small, family-owned distillery in rural Yamhill County. We have been distilling since 2016 and focus exclusively on whiskey which we make from scratch, primarily from Oregon grown grains. We purchase about 75% of the grain we use directly from local farmers, giving them a local market and a better price for their products than they would receive on the commodities market. As small businesses, Oregon distillers are integrated into the local economy and rely on Oregon manufacturers, suppliers, tradespeople, and professionals. As our industry grows, these supporting businesses will expand around us, just as they have in other Oregon craft manufacturing sectors.

As we have looked to expand distribution of our products outside of Oregon, we have noticed that Oregon wines have an excellent reputation in the broader marketplace, while when it comes to distilled products, other states have captured this reputation of superiority. This fact makes it difficult to secure distribution and shelf space outside of Oregon and is an impediment to our growth and the growth of our fellow Oregon distillers. Through this bill, we hope to emulate the demonstrated success of the Oregon Wine Board by elevating the reputation of Oregon's distilled products and increasing the export of distilled spirits out-of-state, resulting in the expansion of Oregon manufacturing jobs and the increased value of Oregon agricultural products.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HB 2976.

Sincerely,

Debra & Steven Day  
Branch Point Distillery  
Dayton, Oregon