

Dear Chair and Committee members

My name is Traci Brumbles. I am a 24 year veteran liquor agent in the small town of Rainier. I am also a boarder store across from Longview Washington.

I have been in this seat numerous times over the years to testify or advocate for liquor agents' concerns. The three bills before you today are ALL important to agents, but it is HB 2120 that I want to address.

Agent compensation was a continual battle for liquor agents for close to twenty years. We were here at these committee meetings repeatedly asking legislators to help with a very outdated compensation rate. Our new compensation package HB 2740 was passed during the 2021 legislative session. The intent of HB2740 was to make agent compensation secure, so liquor agents could finally depend on steady income to pay ever increasing rents, wages, insurance and feed their families. Both agents and long-serving legislators celebrated when the compensation package was finally passed. Years of work during session and out of session finally paid off! Then much to many agents surprise a little over a year went by and all of a sudden, they were losing money. Several of our hard-working agents saw a decrease in their compensation due to the CPI language error. As you all can see that slight oversight on some language is a very minor fix but, that fix will return these agents back to the base pay the legislators in 2021 voted to give them.

We all support the current liquor control system. While we have seen ups and downs over the years you can count on us to be some of the biggest advocates for the current system and fight like hell to keep privatization at bay. We appreciate the chance to serve our communities as small business partners. All while keeping in step with safe and responsible liquor sales and being good stewards of the States inventory.

Thank you for your time today and we look forward to working with you on these House bills.