

Submitter: Amelia Dobbles  
On Behalf Of: Flaneur Wines and Iterum Wines  
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3197, which proposes the implementation of Oregon's first-ever state grocery and restaurant sales tax. As an Oregonian, a daughter of a small family-owned winery, and someone who works for another winery in our state, I urge you to reject this bill.

The current economic challenges we face are already making it difficult for hardworking Oregonians to make ends meet. The introduction of an 8% sales tax on beer, wine, cider, and spirits would only make it harder for those of us who are working diligently to support our families and businesses. As someone directly involved in the wine industry—where we already pour our hearts and souls into creating sustainable and thoughtful wines to be enjoyed—this new tax would add unnecessary financial strain on both local consumers and producers alike.

Beer, wine, cider, and spirits are not only part of Oregon's identity but are also vital to our state's economy. These industries contribute approximately \$17 billion in economic activity and provide hundreds of thousands of jobs. However, these businesses are already grappling with challenges such as inflation, supply chain issues, labor shortages, natural disasters, and the aftermath of a global pandemic. The proposed sales tax would only exacerbate these struggles and hurt the very businesses that contribute to Oregon's unique character.

For those of us who work in this industry, it's not just about making wine—it's about fostering community, sharing experiences, and creating something special. It's about offering a drink after a long day's work or sharing a bottle with loved ones during special moments. With rising costs already affecting families, imposing additional taxes would make these experiences increasingly difficult to afford.

Instead of burdening Oregonians with regressive taxes, our lawmakers should be supporting policies that help small businesses thrive and that promote the continued growth of our homegrown industries. We should be looking for ways to ease the financial challenges that local wineries, breweries, and cideries face, not making it harder for them to operate and succeed.

I urge you to stand with Oregonians and vote against HB 3197. Let's work together to protect Oregon's local economy and culture, rather than penalizing hardworking families and businesses.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Amelia Dobbles