

Submitter: Travis Cook

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety  
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

My name is Travis Cook and I'd like to tell you a story about who I am. In 1894 my great great grandfather Thomas Cook came out on the Oregon trail and homesteaded just east of Baker City. Over the years it has been harder and harder to make a living off of this small plot of land. In 2003 the year I graduated from Baker High School I started a journey to follow my childhood dream of becoming a winemaker. My family had no knowledge of wine or grapes, so I enrolled in the Oregon State University Horticulture program, hoping to learn how to grow grapes and make wine. In 2004 I started planting wine grapes on my family land in Eastern Oregon, unknowingly this would become Oregon's highest elevation commercial vineyard in the state and the First in the Oregon Snake River Valley AVA. I started this planting with some savings I had scrapped together. I graduated in 2007 from OSU and continued work in the Oregon Wine Industry. In 2010 I sold my old pickup truck for \$6,800 and started my winery in north east Oregon, for the last 15 years I have worked harder than I thought I could, establishing vineyards and building a winery from the ground up. Today we in the wine industry face an unprecedented decrease in wine consumption. Last year the United States saw essentially a billion fewer bottles consumed than the previous year. My own tasting room in Baker City, which accounts for most of my annual wine sales saw an 18% decline in wine sales. We are seeing countless wineries, breweries and other Oregon alcohol producers close their doors. I am here to voice my opposition to HB 3197. These industries have been a cornerstone of who we as Oregonians identify. The craft alcohol industry here in the Pacific Northwest is struggling. Please I encourage you to oppose HB 3197, We as an industry do not need another barrier to an already struggling and slowing market and I feel that a sales tax of any kind will hurt an already hurting industry. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Travis Cook

Owner/Winemaker

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Copper Belt Wines

[www.copperbeltwinery.com](http://www.copperbeltwinery.com)