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c/o Members of the Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response
RE: HB 3197 concerning the taxation of the sale of beer and wine

Dear members of this Joint Committee,

Thank you for your representation and service in our state Capitol. I know it's often a thankless job. And thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony.

On behalf of our leadership team, employees, vendors, key accounts and business partners, and our community as a whole, I **urge you to oppose House Bill 3197** as it is before your committee. This bill would directly and extensively jeopardize the sustainability of our business and an already struggling craft-fermentation industry, the financial stability of our employees and their families, and the economic outlook of our community and state.

Oregon is home to hundreds of breweries and thousands of restaurants, employing hundreds of thousands of workers and generating billions of dollars of revenue and taxes paid every year, all of which play a crucial part in sustaining the vibrancy and unique character of our incredible state. The fermentation sector also feeds into our state's agriculture jobs, its freight and transportation jobs, its manufacturing and fabrication jobs, its service and hospitality jobs, its tourism and administrative jobs, and more. HB 3197 as it is before you would cripple our industry and its constituents, send shockwaves through these related industries and directly contribute to the closing of businesses, the loss of jobs, and a contraction of our state's economy - all at a time where millions of Oregonians' financial outlook is already tenuous, and our state's most important industries are grappling with the uncertainty of inflation, tariffs, and rising living costs.

Please oppose House Bill 3197.

Sincerely,

Zack O'Connor