

Submitter: orion landau  
On Behalf Of: wayfinder  
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety  
Response  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 8% tax on beer, wine, and cider. This proposed tax will have significant negative consequences for consumers, small businesses, and the broader economy of [State/Region].

Firstly, this tax places an undue burden on consumers, particularly those on lower and middle incomes. Beer, wine, and cider are often enjoyed as part of social gatherings and celebrations, and this tax will significantly increase the cost of these products, making them less accessible. This directly impacts the ability of individuals and families to enjoy these simple pleasures.

Secondly, this tax will severely harm small businesses within the beverage industry. Breweries, wineries, and cideries, many of which are locally owned and operated, will face increased costs and decreased sales. This could lead to job losses and business closures, negatively impacting our local economy and the vibrant culture these businesses contribute. These businesses already operate within a competitive market with slim profit margins, and an 8% tax could be devastating.

Thirdly, this tax fails to recognize the economic contributions of the alcohol beverage industry. This industry supports numerous jobs in production, distribution, retail, and hospitality. By imposing such a substantial tax, the government risks undermining a sector that contributes significantly to the state's revenue through existing sales taxes and other levies.

Furthermore, the implementation of this tax could lead to unintended consequences, such as increased cross-border purchasing or black market activity, which would further erode tax revenue and harm legitimate businesses.

Instead of imposing a punitive tax that will harm consumers and businesses, I urge you to consider alternative solutions that promote responsible consumption and support the industry's continued growth. This could involve targeted educational campaigns, community-based programs, or more efficient enforcement of existing regulations.

I respectfully request that you reconsider this proposed 8% tax and prioritize policies that support a healthy and sustainable beverage industry.

orion landau  
Wayfinder Beer