

Submitter: Melissa Mills

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

Dear Members of the Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety
Response,

Thank you for your representation and service in our state Capitol.

As the owner of one of the many wineries in and around Newberg, I urge you to oppose the proposed increase in tax on wine.

This unprecedented 8% sales tax would add to the strain we all feel when paying for a loaded grocery cart at the check-out stand. It would also, obviously, damage the profitability of our business with a not unsubstantial impact on our community in the form of income and jobs.

Wineries like ours contribute more than \$2.4 billion in wages and \$7.19 billion in economic activity for this state annually, including bringing 2.3 million tourist visits to Oregon. Yet because of challenging times, with inflation, supply chain issues, employee shortages, a pandemic, wildfires and fewer people drinking, we've lost more than 60 wineries in the past two years – a 5% reduction in 2024 alone.

I urge you not to raise prices through a regressive sales taxes on constituents. Please, don't advance HB 3197. It is ill-timed and ill-conceived in that there is little to no evidence increased taxes will reduce the abuse of alcohol by Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Melissa Mills, Owner, Brick House Vineyards and Wine Company, Newberg OR
USA