

Submitter: Rebecca Wallis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

To the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 3197 and its amendment HB 3197-2.

This bill proposes a retail sales tax—plain and simple. And Oregon voters have said “no” to a sales tax nine times since 1933. Most recently, they overwhelmingly rejected Measure 118 in 2024 by more than 75%. That should speak volumes. But instead of listening, the legislature is attempting to push this tax through without voter approval. That is a betrayal of the public’s will.

What’s worse is how unbalanced this bill is. HB 3197-2 exempts most small breweries from the tax, but it fully taxes wine and cider—even when sold directly at tasting rooms. This is unfair and deeply damaging to small producers and communities that depend on wine and cider for tourism, jobs, and local commerce. If the intent of this bill is to improve youth outcomes, it shouldn’t be targeting just two segments of our craft beverage industry while protecting another.

The Oregon Health Authority has also failed to demonstrate responsible stewardship of existing funds. According to testimony already submitted, \$72 million in SUD funding remains unaccounted for. Before imposing a new tax, we need transparency and accountability—not another hit to small businesses and consumers.

I urge you to reject this bill. Oregonians have already made their position on sales tax clear. HB 3197-2 is an unfair, regressive proposal that punishes small wine and cider producers while ignoring decades of voter sentiment.

Respectfully,  
Rebecca Wallis