

Submitter: Gillian Duff

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,

Please oppose House Bill 3197. The restaurant/hospitality business is vital to our city and state, especially our still struggling downtown areas. This bill would only add to the oftentimes uphill battle for our industry.

With inflation and the highest cost increases in generations an 8% sales tax would only make it more difficult for Oregonians trying to survive (and thrive) in these overly expensive times.

We've lost hundreds of restaurants and bars since the pandemic. The last thing we need are the burdens of having to collect a first of its kind statewide sales tax. Alcohol sales at restaurants and bars are some of our highest margin performers and if people decide to forgo adding a beer, wine or cider to their order, that could make or break a restaurant barely holding on.

Oregon is home to 10,000 restaurants creating hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions in economic activity for the state each year. Please, don't advance HB 3197, which will only harm Oregonian and an industry that contributes so much to the states identity, culture and economy.

Sincerely,

Gillian Duff
General Manager
El Gaucho Portland