

Submitter: Nancy Yuill

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety  
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

I am writing in support of HB 3197-2 to put a modest, sensible tax on malt beverages, cider or wine. It's time to have this luxury product contribute to funding the essential services needed to offset the harm this product can cause.

Listen, I enjoy beer. And, I want our local breweries and wine makers to do well, but the reality is, as much as we are proud of our local beverages, the majority of beer and wine drank in Oregon is not made in Oregon. We will in essence be taxing Budweiser beer and Barefoot wine sales. And, this bill exempts small breweries, so this tax will not have the kind of adverse effect on Oregon brewers that the lobbyists are claiming.

What I also want is the youth and adults who are harmed by excessive alcohol use to have sufficiently funded treatment and services. You know Oregon lags way behind in funding beds for youth treatment, and the disparity is particularly significant in rural areas. What we also lag behind in is sensible taxation of beer and wine. According to the tax foundation, as of January 2024, Oregon has the 45th lowest beer tax rate in the country. Our neighbors in Washington, California, and even Idaho have higher rates of beer taxation.

It's time for you to do the right thing for Oregonians negatively affected by alcohol. Please move HB 3197-2 out of committee. Thank you.