

Submitter: Sara Szymanski

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

I and my husband are the owners of a small craft brewery in Portland, Oregon. We opened a year before the pandemic and have worked enormously hard to pay our bills, lease and employees while providing a family-friendly community gathering space at our Montavilla neighborhood taproom. However, our dream of running a small business - and possibly even paying ourselves - is slowly being eaten up by increased costs across the board, and nickel and dime surcharges such as this that amount to costs we can't pass on to consumers - at least not without losing sales and creating an even more dire position.

I say dire, because that is exactly the state of my and most hospitality businesses at the moment. We've all made tremendous pivots and sacrifices to keep our doors open over the past 5 years. We're all facing newly increased costs due to tariffs - barley and aluminum namely for us - and breweries universally continue to rely on packaged cans vs kegs to drive enough sales to support their business.

I'm not sure why our sector has been chosen to absorb this surcharge but its effects would be devastating to my small business. I think that everyone agrees that small businesses are great for cities and communities. That they get caught in the crosshairs of blanket policies and measures is a known problem and the challenge lies with you to protect its hardworking citizens and fight for equitable measures to accomplish goals. Please don't settle for solutions that indiscriminately wreak havoc and result in shuttered storefronts and sucking the life force of our beautiful city.

Thank you for reading my testimony and considering my position.

Sincerely,

Sara Szymanski