

Submitter: Louann Casares

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 service and representation at the Capitol. As an Oregon employer, I understand the weight of responsibility and the challenges that come with making decisions that impact local businesses and Oregonians.

I'm writing to urge you to oppose House Bill 3197. As a member of a business in Oregon's craft beverage industry, I can tell you firsthand how damaging this bill would be to Oregon businesses and the customers they serve. The craft beverage industry is still in recovery mode after the pandemic and is already battling historic cost increases — from raw materials and packaging to labor and transportation. Adding an 8% sales tax on top of existing costs would deal a serious blow to our customers, the future of Oregon's craft beverage manufacturers, and the local businesses that supply our ingredients and materials.

Moreover, I have serious concerns about the data being presented and used to justify this tax—it feels selective at best—and there appear to be no clear or concrete plans outlining how the revenue will be managed or spent in a way that benefits the communities it claims to protect.

Oregon is a national leader in cider and craft beverage production, with at least 70 cideries — many of them women-owned — driving local economies and supporting our world-renowned agricultural industry. We are proud to be part of a homegrown sector that's created jobs, drawn tourism, and put Oregon on the map.

I urge legislators to take a closer look at the broader implications of this tax, thoroughly examine the data being used to support it, and consider the critical lack of checks, balances, and transparency currently missing from the proposal. Now is not the time to impose a regressive tax that would further burden working families and small businesses. Please oppose HB 3197 and support the industries and communities that make Oregon strong.

Sincerely,
Louann Casares