

Submitter: Herb Quady

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 representation and service in our state Capitol.

I urge you to oppose House Bill 3197, which is before your committee.

Oregon wineries pay income, property, licensing fees and privilege taxes. Taxes on alcohol are already the third largest form of revenue for the state of Oregon. The use of these funds is at the discretion of the legislature. At this point only 3% of these funds is used for education and addiction recovery services.

If the legislature would like to redirect additional funds from existing privilege taxes, they can do so. However, applying a sales tax specifically to a single commodity, would be an unfair burden that would harm one of the state's largest industries as well as ordinary Oregonians. Our industry is already under serious pressures. The beer, wine and cider industries are reeling from a combination of economic factors, including inflation, wildfire damage, drought and an overall decline in sales. Wineries and breweries are closing across the state, grapes are left unharvested in the vineyards, and tanks are full of unsold wine.

This measure strikes me as distinctly un-Oregonian. Oregon has repeatedly rejected sales taxes, which are inherently regressive in nature, in favor of other sources of revenue. Furthermore, Oregonians do not favor governments that enforce morality, whether through taxes or regulations. As a state, we have always valued privacy, choice, and a tolerant, common-sense approach to regulation.

Lawmakers should not be raising prices through regressive sales taxes on constituents. Please, don't advance HB 3197, which will only harm Oregonians and an industry that contributes so much to the state's identity, culture and economy.

Sincerely,

Herb Quady  
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Jacksonville, Oregon