



April 1, 2025

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety
Response:

My name is Sam DeWitt, State Government Affairs Director for the Brewers Association, the 501(c)(6) national trade group that promotes and protects America's small and independent craft brewers. I write you today in opposition to House Bill 3197, a bill that means well but places a massive burden on already struggling family businesses.

As everyone on this committee knows, and as we know at the national association, beer is an essential part of Oregon's economy and identity. Beer lovers see Oregon as a beer Mecca, nationally and internationally known for its creativity in the brewing science, true artisans of the beverage of moderation. Oregon brewers employ thousands across the state and help contribute a share of \$17 billion in economic activity.

But things are not so rosy in the industry right now. The cost of inputs to make these high-quality beers have been rising for months, with no end in sight. Moreover, tariffs on things like aluminum, steel, and Canadian imports like Barley, is making the tight margins brewers work with every day even tighter. A new 8% sales tax would only make it harder for Oregonians trying to make their hard-earned dollars last longer.

Neighborhood craft breweries are community hubs, family-friendly places where friends and loved ones can gather in times of celebration, mourning, and everything in between. If prices go up, these beloved rooms where people can congregate will be harder to afford. So much more than just beer will be lost. Community will be lost.

We're asking that you save our communities, save our small businesses. We're respectfully asking for a NO vote on House Bill 3197.

Sincerely,
Sam DeWitt
State Government Affairs Director
Brewers Association
720.837.6935
sam@brewersassociation.org