

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 3197

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3197, which mandates a study on the taxation of the sale of beer and wine. As the owner of a small convenience store, I can attest that this bill poses significant risks to small businesses like mine, which are already at a disadvantage compared to larger corporate retailers.

Firstly, the introduction of new taxes or changes to existing ones can severely impact the already thin profit margins that small businesses operate under. Larger corporate stores have the resources to absorb increased costs and can often negotiate better terms with suppliers due to their scale. In contrast, small businesses like mine do not have the same leverage, and any additional financial burden could lead to increased prices for our customers, reduced inventory, or, in the worst-case scenario, closure.

Moreover, the study proposed in this bill does not guarantee that any findings will lead to equitable solutions. The concern is that the outcomes may inadvertently favor larger corporate entities, further entrenching their dominance in the market while small businesses struggle to survive. The last thing we need is a system that perpetuates the cycle of disadvantage for local shops that are vital to our communities.

Additionally, small businesses contribute to the local economy by providing jobs, supporting local suppliers, and fostering a sense of community. Taxation changes that impact our ability to compete only serve to weaken these contributions. If small businesses are pushed out, our communities will suffer from a lack of diversity in the marketplace and a diminished sense of local identity.

It is crucial to consider the long-term implications of this bill on small business viability and the broader economic ecosystem. I urge you to reconsider the potential consequences of House Bill 3197 and to prioritize policies that support small businesses rather than those that may inadvertently favor larger corporations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Karen Chirre

Stadium Superette