

Submitter: Garrett Weaver

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,

I appreciate the time and effort you dedicate to serving our state. Public service often comes with difficult decisions, and I want to acknowledge the work you do.

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3197. This bill would unfairly burden responsible, legal-age Oregonians who simply want to enjoy a locally brewed beer—whether it's after work with colleagues, at a gathering with friends, or celebrating an outdoor adventure.

With the rising cost of living already squeezing household budgets, imposing an 8% sales tax on beer and cider would only make things harder. Everyday Oregonians shouldn't have to pay even more for something that has long been part of our state's culture and economy.

Oregon is home to a thriving craft beer industry—one that supports thousands of jobs and contributes billions of dollars in economic activity. Yet, in recent years, breweries, taprooms, and pubs have been closing at an alarming rate due to inflation, supply chain disruptions, and other economic challenges. Adding a new tax would only accelerate these losses, putting even more small businesses and livelihoods at risk.

I urge you to reconsider the impact this bill would have on both consumers and the businesses that make Oregon's craft beer scene one of the best in the country. Please vote against HB 3197 and support the industry that has helped shape our state's identity.

Sincerely,

Garrett