

Submitter:	Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of:	Taxation Without Representation
Committee:	Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3197

NO on HB 3197

Personally, I do not drink alcohol in any form, but nonetheless, I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill. It is blatant taxation without representation. Another tax is not the answer to every problem. There are already enough taxes on beer and wine. Try eliminating some waste in other areas. Just don't add more taxes on consumers and businesses. This is not fair or sustainable for small business owners and places undue financial burden on them. Oregon HB 3197 poses a direct and devastating threat to their livelihoods and creates an unfair playing field that favors large distributors and retailers. These limitations would strangle growth potential and make it nearly impossible to compete with larger, out-of-state corporations.

This bill comes under the guise of the Oregon Health Authority which cannot account for \$72 million that was to be used for substance use disorder. Another "study" is a waste of taxpayer monies when there has already been a year-long Task Force on the question of Oregon alcohol taxes and prevention measures in the state. HB 3197 is both unnecessary and should not be put in the hands of the Oregon Health Authority until an audit of that agencies spending can be undertaken. Shame on whoever just wants to tax and spend more on the backs of consumers. Is this tax trying to make up for the state's fiscal irresponsibility with PERS, and the education system in general? How about being fiscally responsible for once and use the existing revenues more wisely so that new taxes, like this one, are not needed.

The public opposes sales taxes in Oregon. NO MORE TAXES!!