

Submitter: Dennis Williams

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 know it's often a thankless job.

I urge you to oppose House Bill 3197, which is before your committee, as it would harm me, my business and every other legal-drinking-aged Oregonian, who just wants to grab a pint with a colleague after work or have a beverage while watching the game at their favorite bar.

With the highest cost increases in generations and no end in sight, a new, unprecedented 8% sales tax would only make it more difficult for Oregonians trying to make their hard-earned dollars stretch.

Oregon is home to 10,000 restaurants creating hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions in economic activity for the state each year. Yet because of challenging times, with inflation, supply chain issues, employee shortages, a pandemic and fewer people drinking or going out, we've lost hundreds of restaurants and bars since the pandemic. The last thing we need are the burdens of having to collect a first of its kind statewide sales tax. Alcohol sales at restaurants and bars are some of our highest margin performers and if people decide to forgo adding a beer, wine or cider to their order, that could make or break a restaurant barely holding on.

Lawmakers should not be raising prices through regressive sales taxes on constituents when we're already experiencing record highs. Please, don't advance HB 3197, which will only harm Oregonian and an industry that contributes so much to

the states identity, culture and economy.

Sincerely,

Dennis Williams

P.S.

That was a pre-written response which I agree with but I have a few extra things to add.

Myself, and many other Oregonians will be opposing any new taxes you plan to enact until you as a government can show you are spending our money wisely.

Since 2018 this state has been burning through money under the guise of tackling the homeless problem and we the people have only seen the problem worsen.

You want to toll major freeways which would hit low income people the hardest.

Our state is top 5 on money spent per public student, yet our state ranks 40th or lower on public education standards.

If you the government can show us you can spend our taxes earnings wisely, maybe we wouldn't be opposed to new taxes. As it is, from my and many many other's stand point, it just looks like you're throwing it in a burn barrel.