

To the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

I am writing to submit my strong opposition to HB3197, which proposes an 8% sales tax on beer, wine, and cider, and HB3940, which would impose a 5-cent surcharge on beverage containers sold in Oregon.

As the owner of a small, independent brewery based in Portland, I cannot overstate how devastating these measures would be—not only to my business, but to our entire industry. The economic reality for craft producers right now is incredibly difficult. In just the past year, our sales have dropped by 15%. Tourism is still sluggish, alcohol consumption is down, and we continue to navigate the high cost of doing business in Portland—compounded by safety concerns, rising insurance premiums, and taxes like the CAT, which unfairly applies to gross rather than net revenue.

We are not thriving. We are simply trying to survive.

Our brewery employs Oregonians. We contribute meaningful tax revenue to both the state and the City of Portland. We are a part of what makes this place culturally rich and economically diverse. These proposed taxes will not be absorbed by “big alcohol”—they will land squarely on the shoulders of small businesses like mine and the consumers who already face high prices.

Adding an 8% sales tax on top of the already-high excise taxes we pay is more than we can bear. The proposed container surcharge is yet another blow to an industry trying to hold the line. These policies will not lead to public benefit—they will lead to closures, layoffs, and the further erosion of Oregon’s vibrant beverage industry.

I urge you to vote no on HB3197 and HB3940. Please support small businesses like ours by rejecting these punitive, short-sighted proposals.

Sincerely,

Brenda Crow
Partner / Little Beast Brewing, LLC
Clackamas, OR