

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,  
Katherine Courtney  
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Eugene, OR