

Submitter: Alan Taylor  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety  
Response  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

Dear Committee members.

I am writing in Opposition to HB3197, which has a proposed 8% sales tax on beer, wine, and cider. HB 3197 would be Oregon's first ever grocery and restaurant sales tax, increasing prices on legal-age drinkers in Oregon by 8%.

While HB 3179 states that additional revenue is needed for youth prevention, youth drinking is at an all-time low, a trend that's occurred for more than two decades as existing prevention programs are working. There is no need for this additional taxation.

In 2024, Oregon brewers, winemakers and cidermakers worked with Rep. Sanchez on a taskforce to examine alcohol taxes. The taskforce declined to recommend a tax increase and 87.5% of the public comments submitted opposed tax increases.

If the legislators were serious about an all-inclusive taxation on alcohol, you would include hard liquor and not just vilify the beer, wine and cider industries, which produce products with moderate alcohol levels.