

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

Oregon state lawmakers,

I am writing you in opposition to the proposed tax to be levied on alcohol and beverage manufacture. As you are aware, craft brewing in the US has provided a manufacturing renaissance in an era when the country was largely shedding good manufacturing jobs for cheaper offshore alternatives. Makers of beer, wine and spirits have managed to provide millions of new jobs in stark contrast with the rest of the manufacturing sector, and to capture the imagination of several generations of American consumers.

Oregon has been one of the epicenters of craft beer in the United States. Over the last four decades, craft beer has become one of the hallmarks of culture in this state. Look beyond the economic impact numbers for merely the industry: every week, the industry generates regional commerce and international beer tourism as well. Generational agricultural dynasties have grown up alongside the brewing industry. A lot of the brewing supply chain is regional in nature. As hops ripen and approach harvest in the Willamette and Yakima Valleys each Fall, brewers from all over the nation and world travel through Portland to evaluate and secure their preferred lots for brewing in the upcoming year.

Presently we are also facing some of the stiffest industry headwinds in decades. We are being squeezed out from all sides as supply chain constraints make ingredients and inputs more expensive, rising labor costs can't even keep up with inflation, and a generational shift in drinking habits is underway. Breweries are already closing their doors left and right.

An additional tax, now of all times, would not only be ill-informed — it would be reckless. Would you really drive that nail into the coffin of an industry that has been such an important part of Oregon's past and present? That has been built and nourished by so many hardworking Oregonians? Please join me in opposition to HB 3197.