

Date 4/3/2025 Subject: Opposition to HB 3197 –

Harmful to Oregon Bowling Centers and Small Businesses



I'm writing to you on behalf of the **Oregon State Bowling Proprietors Association (OSBPA)** and the 55 family-owned bowling centers we represent across the state. As Executive Director, I urge you to **oppose House Bill 3197**, which proposes an 8% sales tax on beer and wine by 2032.

This legislation poses a serious threat to Oregon's bowling centers and countless other small businesses in the hospitality and recreation industries.

Bowling centers are cornerstones of their communities. We offer facilities for bowling, youth programs, birthday parties, league play, community fundraisers, and social events. Many of our member centers have served their towns for generations. And like most in the hospitality sector, **beverage sales are critical to keep** our prices family-friendly.

With the cost of doing business at an all-time high—from rising food and beverage costs to insurance, payroll, and utilities—our centers are doing everything they can to hold the line. An 8% sales tax on beer and wine would force us to either raise prices (and risk losing customers) or absorb the cost (and jeopardize already thin margins). **Neither option is sustainable.**

This bill unfairly targets small businesses while placing a regressive tax on everyday Oregonians who simply want to enjoy a drink with friends, family, or teammates at their local lanes.

Oregon has long prided itself on supporting craft beverage producers and resisting broad sales taxes. HB 3197 contradicts both values. It singles out one product category, disproportionately burdens small operators, and adds a layer of complexity to businesses that are already navigating enough red tape.

We understand the importance of funding addiction and recovery services—but HB 3197 is not the way to do it. This bill would **undermine small businesses, reduce consumer spending, and hurt community gathering spaces** across the state.

Please stand with Oregon's small businesses, family-owned bowling centers, and working families by **opposing HB 3197**.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Tawnya Zwicker

Executive Director

Oregon State Bowling Proprietors Association

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