

Subject: Strong Opposition to HB 3197 – A Direct Threat to Oregon’s Bowling Centers and Community-Based Businesses

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

Thank you for your service and commitment to the people of Oregon. I know the work you do often comes with little thanks—but your decisions have real, lasting impacts on small businesses like mine.

I’m writing to express my **strong opposition to House Bill 3197**, which proposes an 8% sales tax on beer and wine by 2032. This bill is a direct threat to bowling centers like mine, and to countless community-based businesses across Oregon.

Bowling centers are more than entertainment venues—we’re gathering places where families, friends, coworkers, and leagues come together. And like many in the hospitality industry, we rely heavily on beverage sales to stay afloat. Beer, wine, and cider are often the difference between a business that breaks even and one that goes under.

HB 3197 would make our jobs harder, our margins thinner, and our survival less certain.

We are already navigating the highest cost increases in decades. Inflation, supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, and rising utility costs have hit every aspect of our operations. We’ve already had to absorb so much—and now we’re being told to act as tax collectors for a brand-new statewide sales tax? One that unfairly targets just a few sectors of the economy?

This proposal is **regressive**, harmful to working Oregonians, and incredibly shortsighted. At a time when we should be doing everything possible to support small business recovery, HB 3197 does the opposite.

It will drive customers away. It will force us to raise prices. And it could be the final blow for struggling centers that are already operating on razor-thin margins.

Oregon’s craft beverage industry, and the businesses that serve it—like ours—are part of this state’s culture and identity. HB 3197 threatens that legacy.

Please, do the right thing. **Reject HB 3197** and stand up for the small businesses, workers, and community spaces that make Oregon what it is.

Sincerely,
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