

Submitter: Robert Summers  
On Behalf Of: Ratchet Brewery  
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety  
Response  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

Oregon is well known for our micro breweries and wineries, and has a proud heritage of small business crafters that are the reason for this notoriety. Wasting tax dollars already taken from struggling businesses is no excuse to keep beating them down by taking more. Show us you know how to manage what you've already taken (not given) before you try to take more from an already struggling industry. One of the biggest travesties of our government is its inability to properly manage the millions it takes from its citizens every year. Where's the accountability?

Regardless of how you feel about alcohol, it's not about what these businesses are selling. They are just an easy target because if they don't have the money to line the politicians' pockets, they don't have money to fight the taxation. For now, it looks good on paper to come after this industry as opposed to the small shops and manufacturers, but it won't stop there. Your favorite restaurants and boutiques are next unless we stand up to the money grabbing bureaucrats and tell them NO. Ratchet Brewery is just one of many small BUSINESSES, owned and operated by GOOD PEOPLE that we are proud to consider family.

This is what I shared to my facebook account today. Show me, and the rest of Oregon that YOU are not part of the problem by squashing this bill and hold your fellow politicians accountable for how OUR money is spent. I have a very personal stake in this matter as a small business owner myself, and my wife works in the Industry as both a server at a brewery and a merchandiser for a small distribution company. I am a retired veteran and my family has lived paycheck to paycheck my entire military career until recently when she was able to work again because of the generosity of small businesses like Ratchet Brewery right here in Salem. She is one of only two employees, only works one day a week, while the owner works seven days a week doing everything else because they can't afford to give her more hours. This tax would most likely put them out of business, and thus my wife out of work. My wife loves her job, her customers, and her boss, although she doesn't make much, she does it because they are family and she loves the hard working community. Please put an end to this bill before it cripples an already struggling industry.