

Submitter: John Weigel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety  
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

To whom it may concern,

I would like to start off by saying thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I see that you have a lot of testimonies to get through.

I've been apart of Oregon's beer community for a few years now, and a lot of our craft breweries are shutting down because the cost-of-goods are increasing to the highest they've ever been. I patron a lot of the Salem breweries such as Santiam Brewing, Ratchet Brewing, For Tomorrow We Die, Shades of Brew, and a few others. Some are surviving the costs-of-goods price increases, some are in talks of not being able to continue operations, but all of them are struggling.

I'm opposing HB 3197 because I fear that a tax increase on alcohol, no matter how small, may be the straw that breaks the camels back for some of these breweries.

While I do think that funding alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs for youth under the age of 21 is important. I don't think more funds are going to help, especially from businesses that obviously don't sell to youth under 21 already. I think we need an accounting of the current funds before we look towards and increase or a decrease. A reallocation of current funds seems more important and impactful for youth under 21 than an increase on taxes paid for by businesses who sell alcohol.

Thank you for your time,

-John Weigel

Brewery Patron