

Submitter: Shirley Lewis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3940

My name is Shirley Lewis and I go by Nikki, and I work for a hop farm here in Oregon, selling hops to breweries across the state and beyond. I'm writing today in opposition to HB 3940 because I've seen firsthand how fragile the brewing industry has become — and how deeply any additional strain, like a new tax, will ripple through the rest of our supply chain.

I don't just sell hops — I build relationships with the people who brew beer in our communities. I've stood alongside brewers on brew days, celebrated the release of new beers, and witnessed the pride they take in crafting something meaningful. Many of these businesses are small, family-run, veteran-owned, and serve as gathering places in their neighborhoods. But today, a lot of them are just trying to survive.

With rising costs, labor shortages, pandemic aftershocks, and now declining beer sales, breweries are under immense pressure. Oregon lost 30 breweries in 2023 and 35 breweries in 2024. There will be more closing in 2025. When they close, it doesn't just impact their immediate employees — it affects suppliers like me, farmers, truck drivers, packaging companies, and many other small businesses that make up this ecosystem.

HB 3940 may seem like a small increase on paper, but for many breweries, it could be the breaking point. And when breweries are forced to scale back or shut down, it directly threatens my job and the livelihoods of countless others like me who support them. As a reflection of craft beer being down, U.S. hop growers planted -18% less crop this year. Oregon hop farmers similarly planted -18% less in 2024. Oregon's 300+ breweries contribute \$8.7 billion to our state's economy and support 50,000 jobs. We should be finding ways to protect and strengthen this uniquely Oregon industry — not making it harder for these businesses to stay open.

I respectfully urge you to vote no on HB 3940. Let's work together to support local business, preserve jobs, and ensure that Oregon remains a place where beer — and the people behind it — can thrive.

Sincerely,
Shirley "Nikki" Lewis