

Written Testimony of Mary Ann Schwab

Good Morning House Speaker Kotek, Senator Rosenbaum and Representative Bailey:

I oppose SB 822 mandating PERS retirees upper and higher-income workers take a COLA pay-cut to balance the State General Budget.

Might I suggest the Governor and the PERS Board consider joining forces with Lobbyists representing Cities and Counties, D&A Counselors, Lines for Life (formerly called Oregon Partnership) to increase the 1977 frozen penny-a-pint malt beverage production privilege fee? As you know, out of 50 states, currently Oregon ranks #47 at a penny and Alaska ranks #1 at a Dime a Drink. Regrettably, I was not able to vet where the OLCC Liquor License business fee ranked in relation to 50 States.

Yet for whatever reason, the Governor and his advisors have yet to review that 1977 frozen penny-a-pint malt beverage production privilege fee to increase revenue to the State's general fund. Did you know the total privilege "fee" collections in 2011 was \$7,081,365.16? Or that malt beverages cost less when purchased in Vancouver, Washington -- Yes, that total includes their States Sales Tax?

At the risk of sounding like a broken record -- here are a few "Time for a Dime Committee 2002 factoids" :

Did you know?

* Oregon's beer fee has been frozen at a penny-a-pint since 1977, (when Gretchen Kafoury raised it 3/8 of a cent? Yes, the first fee was established in 1946).

* A 10-cent-per-drink increase could provide more than \$80 million a year in targeted funds for substance abuse prevention (school drug and alcohol counselors) treatment and recovery (prisoners) and law enforcement programs (skill training for police officers how to communicate with mentally ill and individuals who abuse alcohol).

* \$900 million of your state dollars are paid into human services each year because of alcohol and other drug problems.

* It is time the beer industry pays its fair share of the social and economic cost of its product.

Make your voice heard!

Contact Time for a Dime Committee 2002

Once again the Dime-a-Drink efforts died in Committee -- When Lobbyists reported how it would be a hardship for grocery stores to re-calibrate their registers, no thought was given to industry calibrating sale coupons daily.

Moot with last session 30-30

As for this 2013-14 session -- stay tuned.

Your thoughts?

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*OLCC analyst just gave me the breakdown for 2011 privilege taxes collected:

Total Privilege Tax Collections in 2011		
Class	Collection	Percent
Table Wine	\$ 8,341,654.20	51.3%
Dessert Wine	\$ 753,224.41	4.6%
Malt Beverages	\$ 7,081,365.16	43.6%
P&I/Audits	\$ 73,407.34	0.5%
Total	\$16,249,651.11	