

Testimony in Support of Oregon House Bill 2702

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Business and Labor

RE: Public Hearing, **HB2702**

ATTN: Rep. Margaret Doherty, Chair

Dear Chairperson Doherty,

I am writing to urge the House Committee on Business and Labor approve HB2702 to establish a process for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to adopt a rule declaring an alcohol impact area upon petition by a municipality. I am unable to be in Salem for the hearing due to other prior commitments.

The City of Portland's AIA proposal is urgently needed, and in the past there was significant citizen advocacy in Portland in favor of establishing an alcohol impact area in downtown Portland to improve livability/safety and protect the downtown economy. Passing this bill will allow this much needed Alcohol Impact Area in Portland to be realized.

Sincerely,

Wendy Rahm

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Dear Chairperson Doherty,

In response to petition by downtown Portland citizens the Portland City Council in 2011 called for the establishment on a downtown Alcohol Impact Area (AIA). There is a need to curb street drinking, littering, **public** drunkenness, urination in doorways, and other uncivil behavior. At an OLCC hearing at which many from our neighborhood testified to the need, the vote was in favor of the AIA, but the OLCC subsequently no claimed it had no authority to proceed.

Please pass HB 2702, which should clarify this authority and enable Portland to take action to support a viable, liveable downtown in response to the wishes of it citizens and elected City Council.

Thank you for your support of HB 2702.

Richard Rahm

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Dear Representative Doherty,

I have lived in Downtown Portland since 2006. This area of the city critically needs to be designated an Alcohol Impact Area (AIA). I and many of my neighbors strongly supported the OLCC's AIA rule-making for Portland that was attempted in 2011. Legislation must be passed soonest to enable the OLCC to meet its mission and goals: "... to promote the public interest through the responsible sales and service of alcoholic beverages ... to focus on public safety and community livability considerations..."

Having witnessed first-hand the increasing impact of low-cost, high-alcohol content malt beverages on safety and livability, our support is even stronger. With very tight budgets into the foreseeable future, scarce police resources will be stretched to the breaking point attempting to respond to the public drinking of these cheap beverages and the attendant dangerous behavior on public streets. The impact is fundamentally negating the very large investment that has been made to make Downtown Portland safe, livable and attractive to visitors, businesses and residents.

Sincerely,

Bob Wright

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I am writing to urge the House Committee on Business and Labor approve HB2702 to establish a process for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to adopt a rule declaring an alcohol impact area upon petition by a municipality. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the hearing due to prior commitments.

The City of Portland's AIA proposal is urgently needed and in the past there was significant citizen advocacy in Portland in favor of establishing an alcohol impact area in downtown Portland to improve livability/safety and protect the downtown economy. Passing this bill will allow this much needed Alcohol Impact Area in Portland to be realized.

Robert and Judith Bell

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SUBJECT: HB2702

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House Committee on Business and Labor

RE: Public Hearing, [HB2702](#)

ATTN: Rep. Margaret Doherty, Chair

Dear Chairperson Doherty,

I am writing to urge the House Committee on Business and Labor approve HB2702 to establish a process for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to adopt a rule declaring an alcohol impact area upon petition by a municipality. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the hearing due to prior commitments.

On a recent early morning walk in our neighborhood, I encountered a large and fresh puddle of what appeared to be human vomit, and as I walked around the block I saw three more spots of the same, each smaller in size than the one before. While there could have been other causes, it seems likely that an inebriated person had deposited this offal without regard for people using the public sidewalks. I doubt that a person sick from causes other than alcohol would have been so oblivious as to be walking around in a nauseous state. Since the vomit was on the block occupied by my condominium, I asked for a member of the building staff, who has access to shovels, hose and water, to clean up the mess.

This incident served as dramatic evidence to me of why the City of Portland needs to make way for an Alcohol Impact Area to maintain a reasonable level of neighborhood livability. In the past there was significant citizen advocacy in Portland in favor of establishing such an area downtown to improve livability/safety and protect the downtown economy. Passing this bill will allow this much needed Alcohol Impact Area in Portland to be realized.

Sincerely yours,

Susan D. Bliss

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ATTN: Rep. Margaret Doherty, Chair

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I am writing to urge the House Committee on Business and Labor approve HB2702 to establish a process for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to adopt a rule declaring an alcohol impact area upon petition by a municipality. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the hearing due to prior commitments.

The City of Portland's AIA proposal is urgently needed and in the past there was significant citizen advocacy in Portland in favor of establishing an alcohol impact area in downtown Portland to improve livability/safety and protect the downtown economy. Passing this bill will allow this much needed Alcohol Impact Area in Portland to be realized.

Thank you,

Mary M. Cramer

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I am writing to urge the House Committee on Business and Labor approve HB2702 to establish a process for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to adopt a rule declaring an alcohol impact area upon petition by a municipality. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the hearing due to prior commitments.

The City of Portland's AIA proposal is urgently needed and in the past there was significant citizen advocacy in Portland in favor of establishing an alcohol impact area in downtown Portland to improve livability/safety and protect the downtown economy. Passing this bill will allow this much needed Alcohol Impact Area in Portland to be realized. As a resident of downtown Portland, I have become acutely aware of the problems engendered by the lack of an AIA. Such problem include my own experience of having to step over drunken individuals just to go to my neighborhood grocery at night and observing abusive and dangerous behavior between publicly drunk individuals.

The lack of an AIA results in deeply problematic compromises of the liveability of downtown Portland, both its residents and for visitors. Such compromises include alcohol-fueled aggressive panhandling, littering, offensive behavior, and the presence of staggeringly drunk persons in neighborhoods. Such compromises have huge impacts on the ability of downtown businesses to succeed. Drawing customers of course is vital, and public drunkenness and its attendant evils urges customers away. The impact goes even deeper. If people are discouraged from living in downtown Portland, the environmental and social utility of housing density will be lost.

However sensitive the police may be to the problems dangerous and aggressive behavior present, resources are too thin for the burden of the impact of public drunkenness to fall solely on the shoulders of the police. An AIA will offer a useful tool to combat this problem. Please move forward on this issue.

Geoffrey Wren

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ATTN: Rep. Margaret Doherty, Chair, House Committee on Business and Labor

Dear Chairperson Doherty,

I am a resident of downtown Portland. I testified on the need for an AIA to the OLCC in my capacity as chairman of our homeowners association. The OLCC has not taken action, indicating they do not have sufficient authority. I am writing to urge the House Committee on Business and Labor approve HB2702 to establish a process for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to adopt a rule declaring an alcohol impact area upon petition by a municipality.

The City of Portland's AIA proposal is urgently needed and in the past there was significant citizen advocacy in Portland in favor of establishing an alcohol impact area in downtown Portland to improve livability/safety and protect the downtown economy. Passing this bill will allow this much needed Alcohol Impact Area in Portland to be realized.

My belief that such legislation is needed is based on safety, livability and economic concerns. Alcohol related problems result in not just aggressive pan-handling, but intimidating, threatening and sometimes dangerous behavior.

This bill is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your leadership on this matter.

With best regards,

Christine Neilsen