

March 4, 2013

To: Members of the Business and Labor Committee

Re: HB 2886

Metro Area Coalitions (MAC) is a coalition of 14 active substance abuse prevention coalitions in the Portland metro area working together to reduce underage drinking and substance abuse. MAC and its over 1,000 coalition members including residents, youth, parents, schools, law enforcement, businesses, government representatives, and health professionals, represent diverse communities in the metro area. The coalitions that belong to MAC are connected by their use of prevention science and research-based strategies that are effective in reducing youth substance abuse rates.

MAC strongly supports HB 2886. This bill imposes conditions when a city gives an “unfavorable” recommendation to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) for an alcohol license applicant.

As prevention coalition leaders, we work closely with the OLCC, police, city and county governments and businesses owners. Currently, local communities have little input when an alcohol license application is reviewed. With the OLCC enforcement officers stretched thin across the state and especially in rural communities, it is the local police, local governments and residents who are most aware of problem bars and community conditions that could raise valid concerns about new alcohol licensing. This bill will provide local communities a voice and a means to address concerns about alcohol license applications and the potential impacts on their communities.

Most businesses serving or selling alcohol are responsible community members and contribute significantly to the health and vibrancy of our communities. However, when a local government has valid grounds for making an unfavorable recommendation, it should have the opportunity for meaningful input into the process that sets conditions for licensees. HB 2886 will enhance the health, safety and well-being of the youth, residents and businesses in many communities throughout Oregon.

Sincerely,

Sondra Storm,  
Metro Area Coalitions (MAC) Representative

MAC Member coalitions independently supporting this bill:

Clackamas County Prevention Coalition

Hillsboro Empowers Youth

Tigard Turns the Tide

Gladstone Youth Coalition  
Multnomah County SPF-SIG Project  
Tualatin Together  
Beaverton Together  
East Portland Community Coalition