

Dear Mr. Brennan and Members of the Committee,

I am the owner of the North Redmond Liquor Store. I have been following this issue very closely as it will affect my livelihood and that of my 5 employees. If the grocery lobby is successful in their bid to privatize the sale of distilled spirits, it will be yet another shift of wealth from local small business to large out of state conglomerates. I do not believe that Fred Meyer or Safeway will hire any of my employees because they add an aisle of liquor to their inventory. In this day of promoting small business and the creation of jobs, this bill as proposed would put many of us out of business and our employees on the unemployment line.

It does not appear that enough time, thought, or research went into the creation of this bill or the ramifications of it passing. The only thing that is insured by the passage of this bill is that the OLCC and its warehouse operations would remain intact. For this reason, I would support the passage of Amendment #4 which would create a committee for the further study of what changes need to be made to the current system.

If Amendment #4 is under consideration, I would like to make a suggestion. I do not believe that one representative for 250 liquor agents/small business owners is adequate. We have many different interests that should be identified. I would like to suggest that we have a representative for the "exclusive stores" and one for the "non-exclusive" stores as our operations are quite different.

I am hoping that through cooperation and diligent work toward an improved system, we can avoid passage of an initiative that would allow liquor in all grocery stores over 10,000 sf. This would cause the majority of liquor agents, like me, to close our doors and in so doing, send the money spent by us in our local communities to some large corporate office in another state.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Regards,

Catherin L. Daw
North Redmond Liquor Store