

Dear Senators:

I appreciated the time and attention given to the testimonies during the hearing on the 4th regarding SB1559. Several positive points were made during the testimonies. I would appreciate you're keeping in mind as you review during your work session the following:

- Is greater access to liquor actually being requested--is that truly modernization of the system? Do you really think the system will "implode" if left as is, or are we just reacting to the Grocer's threat. Maybe I'm missing something, but the system seems to work very well.
- OLCC has developed the most efficient system for providing a wide variety of product to every corner of Oregon and has maintained that service with less than a 25% increase in price over the last 25 years. We need to guard the successfulness of the existing system and strive to improve it rather than eliminate it. As was said in the testimony, "don't throw the baby out with the bathwater."
- Agents' knowledge and business acumen is a valuable asset that has been underused in development of new methods of obtaining goals related to sales, public safety and service. Many ideas can be implemented through administrative decision making process of the Commission without necessity of legislation. Given a clear view of the goals, the Commission can work with Agents to embrace innovative changes that will update the existing system. However, the Legislature needs to approve methods that will fund changes and support the Agents.
- Improvements within the system should be encouraged through measureable incentives rather than additional rules.

Although the Retail Innovations group actions and the resulting Bill appears to have no purpose beyond reaction to the Grocer's initiative, it may be the attention will spur legislative action resulting in improvements to the system. With that in mind, I would support Amendment #4 if the Bill cannot be dropped in it's entirety.

I would appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Task Force if the Bill is accepted with Amendment #4.

Respectfully submitted,
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