



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Liquor Control Commission**

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Testimony of Jesse Sweet, Policy Analyst, Oregon Liquor Control Commission

Before the Senate Committee on Health Care

Senate Bill 663-2

April 13, 2015

While the Liquor Commission has not taken a formal position on Senate Bill 663-2, OLCC staff is ready, willing and capable to take on the additional responsibilities described in the bill.

The Liquor Commission's experience in licensing off-premises sales outlets to sell alcoholic beverages and ensuring that these outlets do not sell to minors would transfer well to regulation of tobacco retailers. In fact, approximately 85% of the estimated 3600 tobacco retailers in Oregon currently hold a liquor license. Additionally, the OLCC has valuable experience conducting minor decoy operations for sales to minors that would be applicable to tobacco retailers.

Due to the significant undertaking of implementing Measure 91, OLCC staff is sensitive to the timing of taking on any new scope of work. Staff believe that the proposed operational date of July 2017 provides sufficient time for implementation. However, it is worth noting that no tobacco revenue will be generated prior to the issuing of licenses. The OLCC will need to build the program infrastructure and adopt administrative rules before that point. The agency faced similar challenges with the marijuana program and has been able to work with the legislature to fund our early implementation efforts.

Should the bill move forward, the OLCC intends to work proactively with this and future legislatures in planning for implementation and leveraging our existing regulatory structure towards this significant new task.

