



SB 316 \$ Million in public subsidy for wine advertising?

Senate Committee on Business and Transportation –Dr. Edith Rusch 2.27.2017

SB 316 supports a public subsidy for a thriving industry at a time when Oregon is facing at \$1.6 billion deficit. Currently you are struggling to adequately fund basic health care needs, schools and universities, and highway repair and construction. Tax Fairness Oregon believes this bill sets a dangerous precedent; imagine every Oregon industry asking you to return millions of their tax dollars so they could increase their marketing footprint.

We want to remind you that every tax refund, grant, appropriation or incentive you approve in this challenging budget cycle reduces the life blood of Oregon. If you choose to support this measure, each year of the biennium 150 high poverty preschool age children won't get high quality preschool, or 176 teachers won't be in overcrowded classrooms, and maybe our vets won't get an Oregon Opportunity Grants to continue in college.

The Wine Board has an alternative. It is currently funded with a tax. If the wine industry needs 3 million dollars this biennium to cover these costs, ORS 182.470 provides the option to increase the two cent/gallon tax. That would contribute to an "Oregon wine is great" promotion.

Tax Fairness Oregon is not against proposal that grow Oregon's economy, but we strongly believe that until Oregon has a fundamentally fair and adequate revenue stream that can support the basic needs of its citizens, the legislature should not be considering new ways to spend money – via new programs, tax incentives or grants for new bright ideas