

SB 677

Cider on the Farm

What is SB 677?

- SB 677 establishes allowed land use for orchards with a minimum of 15 acres of Apples or Pears to produce and sell hard cider on the property
- Proposal is based off of ORS 215.452 which established the same precedent for the wine industry
 - Primary distinction is use of Apple/Pear Orchard in place of Vinyard
 - Updates the threshold of small and large requirements to make sense for the cider industry

Purpose

- To ensure farmers that grow cider fruit have a path to process and sell the fruit grown on their property
 - Allows new businesses to avoid the costly and time consuming conditional use process
 - Provides additional direct to customer sales channel for farmers
- Extends to cider industry the same opportunities provided to wine industry
 - Processing and land use for cider are identical to wine, with the distinction of the use of apples and pears in place of grapes.
- Prevents local government from creating roadblocks for farmers and small businesses

Impact

- Reduces significant barriers to entry for fruit farmers who wish to add value to their crop by processing it into cider
- Incentivizes more farmers to plant cider fruit which is currently in high demand and short supply
- Helps to grow an industry that is quickly becoming a staple industry of Oregon
- Establishes a new agri-tourism business channel for the cider industry and apple growing regions of the state
- Helps bring a historically farm based product back to the farm