

Date: May 26, 2017
To: House Economic Development and Trade Committee
From: The Association of Oregon Counties
Subject: Senate Bill 677A

Please add to the records of the House Economic Development and Trade Committee these comments related to Senate Bill 677A, which is on the committee's agenda for public hearing on April 25, 2017.

AOC supports Senate Bill 677A

The Association of Oregon Counties supports SB 677A. AOC believes that growing apples or pears and creating cider should be treated in a similar manner to growing grapes and making wine. Oregon's cideries are filling a growing market and AOC believes we should ensure that there are no regulatory barriers to get in the way of the continued growth of cider manufacturers.

AOC worked with the wine grower to establish appropriate sideboards for the use of agricultural land for wineries and we believe that same regulations are appropriate for the cider businesses as well. These sideboards were thoroughly vetted and AOC believes they strike a balance between economic development and the preservation of the rural character.

Please support SB 677A. Contact AOC Policy Manager Mark Nystrom (mnystrom@oregoncounties.org) with any questions regarding this testimony.