



Info@occv.org

Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the Committee:

My name is John Calhoun and I am a resident of Portland. I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Center for Christian Voices (OCCV) and speaking against SB 1564.

I am asking you to stop one more attempt to get a special tax benefit for one more industry. While it is expected to cost the state less than a million dollars per year at this time, history says that once this tax benefit is granted the amount will grow as more businesses take advantage of it. Moreover, **these same distilleries just got a huge handout from Congress.** As reported by the Washington Examiner, **small distilleries will get an 80% cut in their excise taxes.** And now these same businesses think they should get even more from our treasury? As your colleague, **Senator Mark Hass recently stated, "You shouldn't get seconds until everyone else gets through the line at least once."**

My organization was formed to advocate for public policies and laws in Oregon that we believe reflect God's desire for a government that promotes the well-being of all, and particularly the marginalized in our society. Giving more and more tax breaks to business is not helping the marginalized, it is making the wealth and income gap larger. **The state needs these funds for schools, healthcare, and paying off our PERS debt as we look at a growing state budget deficit in future years.**

And before these entrepreneurs tell you how tough it is to start a new business let me say I know. I have started and supported several during my 25 years as an entrepreneur. **The distilleries are simply looking for the state to subsidize their marketing efforts. I would instead ask them to think about Saint Paul's instructions to the Philippians, "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."**

Last week I talked to **Stephen McCarthy** about this bill. He **founded Clear Creek Distillery** back in the mid-80's. He is also the individual who got this legislature to revise Oregon liquor laws to allow distilleries to be able to sell in their tasting rooms. The legislation he helped pass is the ancestor of the bill that you are discussing revising today. I asked him if he could come and testify today. He said he would be out of town, but I could quote him saying that he would greatly prefer that these dollars be spent on schools and healthcare and not be given out as another tax break.

Enough is enough. No more government handouts to business.