

Dear Members of the House Rules Committee:

As a small business owner, I am writing today to ask that you support and pass out of committee HB 3448 with a "do pass" recommendation. I also ask that you support and encourage your fellow legislators in the Ways & Means Committee to pass SB 111-A out for a full vote on the floor of the House and Senate.

HB 3448 will improve the labeling of wines from the Willamette Valley American Viticulture Area (AVA) and increase variety and AVA content standards over time. These changes will make it hard for counterfeit Willamette Valley wines to be made in California.

SB 111-A corrects the unfair economic advantages out-of-state producers have in making Oregon wines by requiring them to pay the same grape taxes as Oregon wineries and follow the same rules as Oregon wineries must follow. This legislation will make sure Oregon representations on wine labels, packaging and advertising are accurate, which as an Oregon wine consumer, is very important to me. It is not enough to expect the out of state wine industry to respect our unique Oregon wine and pay the appropriate taxes, which I know you are concerned over.

We must make sure that Oregon supports our wine and beer industries to prevent other out of state interests from capitalizing on what we have. Just like using the word "champagne," it is incumbent on the Oregon Legislature to protect our unique names and quality.

Thank you for your support of the Oregon Wine Industry!

Martha Brooks

Owner of Room 122

Home Address 17355 SW Sugar Plum Lane, Beaverton, OR 97007

Business Address 14274 SW Allen Blvd, Beaverton, OR 97005

503-577-4715

--

"Why be involved? We can not take the marsh and prairie with us, we must enjoy and save it for our children. Spring fast approaches on a west wind...rippling the grass and we count the days until there are birds in numbers. We have to think about it and take action." - Jim Phelps