

From: [Manfred Baetscher](#)
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: Request to consider bill # 1565
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 12:11:46 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to urge your support for Senate Bill #1565 which would improve competitiveness of Oregon distilleries by reducing tasting room tax burden.

I have come to enjoy local spirits because of their quality and the great variety offered by Portland area distilleries- Stone Barn Brandyworks, New Deal Distillery, and Westward Whiskey, Rolling River, Vinn, to name just a few. One main reason for me to buy from Portland area distilleries is to have some unique Oregon-made products to bring as presents to friends across the country and abroad. They are very popular!

I was surprised to learn that in Oregon distilleries pay an average of 33% of their tasting room sales in taxes to the OLCC. Furthermore, I learned that the tax burden on spirits is disproportionately high compared to other Oregon-made alcoholic beverages, including wine, beer and cider. As it turns out, this high tasting room tax burden appears to be a major impediment to the growth and expansion of small boutique distilleries. It is a tax that, while of no major consequence to large national producers, is detrimental to small businesses including many of the Portland-area distilleries.

Therefore, I appeal to you to support bill # 1565 to allow the local distilleries to retain a larger share of their tasting room revenue; to increase their business competitiveness; and to continue to grow at an increased pace.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Manfred Baetscher
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