

From: [Hester Schell](#)
To: [Sen Johnson](#)
Cc: [LRO](#)
Subject: Supporting Bill #1565
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 9:27:29 AM

Dear Senator Johnson,

I am writing to urge your support for Senate Bill #1565. There is an unfair tax rate of 33% charged to distillery tasting rooms. Breweries, Wineries and Cideries are NOT taxed at this high rate. It is unfair. Please support Bill # 1565, fair taxing for all alcohol manufacturing businesses.

I buy 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 a few. I believe in supporting local and want these businesses to be able to stay in business! I am proud to serve these local bottles, and have shared them at our Thanksgiving table, Christmas dinner, and many other occasions with friends and family.

I was surprised to learn that distilleries pay an average of 33% of their tasting room sales in taxes to the OLCC. This is an unreasonable high tax affecting business' ability to survive. And I was also surprised to learn how disproportionate the spirits are taxed as compared to the wineries, breweries and cideries. I can't help but think a lower tax burden allowed craft breweries to flourish in the last decades, and would do the same for distilleries in coming years.

Please help our local distilleries keep their tasting rooms open, be able to retain a higher level of compensation, and continue to provide Oregonians with delicious spirits by supporting Bill #1565. The office of tourism understands how important our craft distilleries are. We hope you do as well.

Most sincerely,

Hester Schell

P.O. Box 10513

Portland, Oregon 97296