

Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

I am a small distiller in rural Yamhill county asking for your support of the principles underlying SB 316, namely the support for Oregon manufacturing, agriculture, small business and tourism.

As you know the State takes a significant portion of the price of any bottle which we sell from our tasting room, this despite the fact that the bottle has never left the distillery and the OLCC has not incurred any costs. Because of this the State makes more money on our products than we do. This severely limits our ability to invest in employees and expand our use of Oregon agricultural products.

The request of the bill is very modest: We are simply asking to be permitted to keep a larger portion of the profits on a limited amount of the product that we sell out of our own tasting room.

As a small family-owned business this bill is of great importance. It provides the possibility that our business will have the cash flow to allow us to hire employees, increase production, and invest in expansion. This will have local economic impact by allowing us to provide living wage employment opportunities in rural Oregon. We purchase 75% of our grain directly from local farmers, so this bill will help support Oregon family farmers as we are able to increase production. These benefits will be multiplied by the small distillers across the state.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven Day  
Branch Point Distillery  
Dayton, Oregon