



720 NE Granger Ave. Bldg B, Corvallis, OR 97330 541-990-0337

February 10, 2021

Dear Oregon Legislators,

I am writing in support of SB316. I simply cannot overstate its importance to the health of this nascent industry and Spiritopia in particular. Without this kind of change, many small distilleries will close or fail to thrive (again, including Spiritopia). I would like to re-emphasize why the State of Oregon should encourage rather than discourage these small businesses:

- Spiritopia hires local people including interns from Oregon State University every year. All of the jobs provide more than the minimum wage. The internship positions help prepare graduates for careers in many areas and allow them to earn while they learn. Our “alumni” have not only gone on to leadership positions in obvious areas such as brewing and distilling, but also to law school (Willamette), medical school (Tulane), and veterinary school (UC Davis). Passage of this bill allows us to hire more employees and convert some part time positions to full time.
- Spiritopia partners with and supports the use of local agriculture with products made from local ryegrass, apples, pears, grapes, barley, and mint. Other distilleries use Oregon berries, hazelnuts, wheat, and more.
- Oregon distillers are solid members of the community. During the past year, Oregon distillers have donated thousands of gallons of sanitizer to help lower the impact of the pandemic. I personally donated to first responders, non-profits, and more than a thousand of individuals in the Corvallis area.

I know this is a tough year in many ways, including the budget. However, the small distillers simply cannot afford to wait another cycle. Without some substantial tax relief similar to that of SB316, many small distilleries will close and the others will fail to thrive. The direct and indirect economic benefits of making the changes outlined in SB 316 will quickly outweigh the loss of revenue to OLCC. Industry growth will help create a stronger tax base and a skilled, educated workforce.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me to discuss any issues further.

Best regards,

Chris Beatty

The Spirit Chemist, Spiritopia, LLC

chris@spiritopia.com