

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I have operated a small distillery in Oakridge for the past 4+ years, building it up to a somewhat sustainable enterprise through tasting room bottle sales and outdoor events through the summer of 2019. Unlike other distilleries, our plan was to be a destination in a recreation minded small mountain town famous for its extensive network of mountain bike trails rather than try to distribute through liquor stores in a competitive market and lose the retail agent commission. This has allowed us to experiment with a wide variety of spirits and flavors in small quantities. Our long term viability was always in question with this strategy though, as we saw nearly as much in taxes and fees being paid out to the OLCC as the meager partial wages we could afford to pay ourselves, and the possibility that this issue would be addressed a light of hope. The Pandemic has been a tremendous blow to this strategy, and made relief an even more urgent necessity for us to survive through this year. I urge passage of SB 316 and the declaration of an emergency so that it takes effect as soon as possible. In our case the extra money that stays in the business would be applied to employee wages, and allow us to hire part time help in the summer season.