



American Pioneer Spirits
at Ewing Young Farm LLC DBA

Ewing Young Distillery

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Sub: Please pass SB 316 – Distiller’s Tasting Room Profitability Act

Dear Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

I am the majority owner of a small Distillery whose tasting room opened to the public on September 1, 2018. Ewing Young Distillery is a woman- and minority-owned business. Thank goodness for us, my brother-in-law is our landlord and doesn’t charge us rent--if we had to pay rent we would not still be in business. With a business like ours, we expect to make a profit by year three, and this is our third year. Tax relief on our tasting room operations would go a long way to making us profitable this year. ***Without tax relief, I doubt we will ever be able to make our tasting room profitable! The tax is that onerous.*** And we receive no value or service for our taxes—the state doesn’t distribute our products as it does those sold through liquor stores.

We currently employ six people including the two owners, neither of whom are currently receiving a paycheck. It is depressing to pay the State so much when currently we cannot afford to pay ourselves anything for our full time+ work. With the passing of SB316, we hope to earn at least as much as we pay to the State in taxes on our tasting room.

Our value-added manufacturing company generates business for many other companies, from whom we purchase raw materials, glass, labels, closures, apparel, and other goods and services. Last March and April we switched our production to hand sanitizer and were the only company in Yamhill County doing so (to my knowledge). We donated sanitizer to local nonprofits and provided low-cost sanitizer to those desperately seeking it, from disabled people to whom we home-delivered free sanitizer, to NW Natural Gas, who purchased it by the tote. We supported our community when they needed us, and now we need the State to ease our tax burden so that we can survive.

This bill passed Ways & Means in the last session and likely would have passed a floor vote had it gotten that far. Please help get it over the finish line this session!

PLEASE PASS SB 316.

Sincerely,

EWING YOUNG DISTILLERY

Bev Root

Co-Founder and Managing Member

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