

Submitter: John Tolbert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety
Response

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: HB3197

Subject: Urgent Call to Action Against House Bill 3197

Dear Community,

As a proud owner of a restaurant that celebrates our vibrant culture, I want to take a moment to address the significant challenges our industry faces, particularly in light of the proposed House Bill 3197.

Our state's breweries, wineries, cideries, distilleries, and hospitality businesses have long been the backbone of our local economy, but we are currently navigating a storm of difficulties. From soaring ingredient costs and ongoing supply chain disruptions to workforce shortages and the lingering effects of the pandemic, we have been resilient in the face of adversity.

However, the introduction of a new sales tax on beer, wine, and cider is not just another hurdle; it is a potentially devastating blow to our local businesses. This unprecedented tax threatens to escalate prices for our customers, hinder our ability to hire and retain talented staff, and stall crucial investments needed for growth and innovation. Ultimately, it would not only hurt producers but also diminish the experience for consumers who enjoy the offerings of our establishments.

As a community, we must unite to advocate against this bill. Together, we can express our concerns to our legislators and emphasize the importance of supporting local businesses that contribute to our economy and cultural fabric.

Let's work together to protect our industry and ensure its sustainability for generations to come. I urge you all to reach out to your representatives and share your thoughts on the implications of House Bill 3197.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

John Tolbert

GM

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