

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY

In the Matter of Requesting the )	
Oregon Liquor Control Board )	
To Require Alcohol Content )	RESOLUTION
Labeling of all Malt Beverages )	90-200
Sold in Oregon )	

WHEREAS, Under OAR 845-10-205, brewers of malt beverages are required to label the alcohol content of all malt beverages which exceed four percent of alcohol by weight, but no mention is made of alcohol content labeling for malt beverages containing less than four percent of alcohol; and

WHEREAS, Federal law prohibits alcohol content labeling of malt beverages, except where state law mandates such labeling, thereby prohibiting brewers from stating the alcohol content on malt beverages containing less than four percent alcohol; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Multnomah County, Oregon, would be benefitted by having information readily available on the container or label to indicate the alcohol content of malt beverages in the same manner as is required of distilled spirits and wines; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant difference in alcohol content among the various brands and types of beer, and, since Oregon criminal statutes measure blood alcohol levels in the hundredths of one percent, consumers have the right to

information that may result in illegal levels of intoxication;  
and

WHEREAS, every nation in the European Economic Community, the Eastern European Nations, Japan, Canada, Australia, and Brazil require the alcohol content of beer be included on the label, and the growth trend of consumers in these countries is towards the lower alcohol content products, which indicates that given a choice, Oregon consumers will also choose to moderate their alcohol consumption; and

WHEREAS, education regarding the use of alcohol can contribute significantly to ameliorating the problems that Multnomah County has the responsibility of addressing such as corrections, traffic safety, health, juvenile services; and

WHEREAS, any action taken by a state agency which has the potential of reducing over-consumption of alcohol and the resultant problems should be encouraged.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners resolves to request the Oregon Liquor Control Board to require the labeling of alcohol content on all malt beverages sold in Oregon.

ADOPTED this 6th day of December, 1990.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By: 

Gladys McCoy, Chair

REVIEWED 

Laurence Kressel, County Counsel