July 1, 2014

Skamania County breweries, distilleries and wineries,

Breweries, distilleries and wineries vary in size and complexity throughout Skamania County. Up until this time they have not been part of the full food inspection and licensure routine of the County. Due to state laws we need to change this practice. Our plan is to provide you with an educational packet and onsite visit in an effort to answer any specific questions. In early Fall, 2014 we will begin inspections and require licenses. Our goal is twofold; to enable business to flourish and grow in Skamania County and also protect the health of the public.

Whether you are strictly serving beer, spirits or wine or offering appetizers or food, a portion of the Washington State Food Code could apply to your operation. With minor exceptions, beer, wine and distillery tasting rooms that handle food are defined by the Food Code as "food establishments" and are required to be supported with sanitary facilities such as hand sinks, restrooms, potable drinking water, and ware washing sinks.

Please review the frequently asked questions hand out and plan review guide to determine your establishment’s category and we will see you soon.

Sincerely,

Kirby Richards, LICSW
Skamania County Community Health Director