



Public Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 307

Madame Co-chairs and members of the Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation:

Oregon has done a great job creating thousands of jobs and generating millions of dollars in new revenue for the state since the passage of Measure 91 and this committee has played an important, crucial role in our great state's successful commercial cannabis system. However, there remains much more work to be done and Senate Bill 307 is another step in the right direction. Please vote "YES" on this sensible bill and send it to the House and Senate floors for a vote.

During the campaign to legalize, regulate and tax marijuana, the Measure 91 campaign made the case across Oregon that our state should treat cannabis similar to beer and wine. Over 56% of voters passed Measure 91, but marijuana lags behind beer and wine in the allowance of any licensed public establishments where adults over the age of 21 may responsibly use cannabis.

Senate Bill 307, by establishing an event licensing process through the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, is a sensible step in the right direction. While not as progressive as what New Approach Oregon ultimately supports, SB 307 will provide the state the opportunity to test out cannabis consumption events, while creating more jobs and generating more revenue for our state.

In addition to the economic benefits of licensing cannabis consumption events, there are social justice benefits as well. Oregonians battling poverty, who are disproportionately people of color, are the most likely to lack safe, private places to consume cannabis. Section 8 housing and many other rental agreements prohibition cannabis use, push many low-income people out on the streets, where they can be subject to costly tickets and law enforcement encounters.

Please vote "YES" on Senate Bill 307 and continue making positive steps toward creating cannabis policies that work well for all Oregonians.

Respectfully,

Anthony Johnson
Director, New Approach Oregon