

Letter from Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and Commissioner Chloe Eudaly to the Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation RE: SB 307, and temporary cannabis event licensing

Honorable Co-Chairs Burdick and Lininger, and Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation Members:

This letter is to express the City of Portland's support of SB 307 and its -1 amendments, as well as for adopting a regulatory framework for marijuana (cannabis) events.

Since Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 91 in 2014 legalizing and regulating cannabis, there have been questions about where cannabis can be consumed if consumers can't (or don't have the desire to) consume it at home. Consuming cannabis in public, such as on a sidewalk or in a parking lot, is not legal. Oregonians living in apartments or a rented house may not be permitted to vaporize or smoke cannabis in their homes. Others may choose not to consume cannabis at home because they prefer not to consume it out of respect for roommates, because they'd prefer not to consume it around their children, or for a variety of other considerations. Absent a legal, regulated, and safe place outside of the home to consume cannabis, these Oregonians may find themselves consuming cannabis in public view on sidewalks, on streets, in vehicles, and in parks.

Visitors to our state may also find themselves in a regulatory conundrum: while they may be able to legally purchase cannabis here in Oregon, they may not have a legal, regulated, and safe place to consume it. The same way as Oregon and our City celebrate our craft beer and wine industry, Portland welcomes and wants to provide opportunities for our emerging craft cannabis industry. SB 307 would provide the regulatory framework for tourists to enjoy the products from Oregon's growing craft cannabis industry legally and safely, outside of the home and outside of public view.

SB 307 represents a common-sense approach to providing Oregonians legal, regulated, and safe places to consume cannabis outside the home. The City appreciates the need to balance the business interests of the cannabis industry, the needs of cannabis consumers, and the safety and livability issues that affect Oregonians and Oregon's visitors, and the City of Portland believes that balance is appropriately struck with SB 307.

Beyond SB 307, the City would like to urge the Joint Committee to adopt a regulatory framework for cannabis event licensing that includes consumption of cannabis at those events. The City's experience leads us to believe that these kinds of events – which have included cannabis consumption– will happen regardless of whether the State and City have a regulatory framework for them. The Joint Committee should give strong consideration to establishing a regulatory framework within which the cannabis industry can legally share their products and services, while also protecting the safety of patrons and vendors and offering ways to consume cannabis safely and lawfully. We also believe these events can bolster cannabis tourism, providing opportunities for Oregon's craft cannabis industry to share its products with Oregonians and visitors alike.

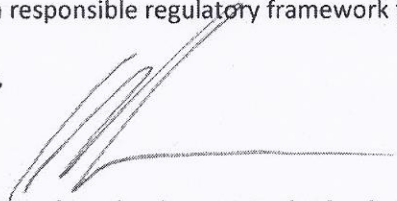
Further, such regulation would provide Portland and other communities clear, enforceable guidelines and expectations, ensuring consistency in impact between events throughout the year, making it easier for organizers to communicate those expectations to vendors and patrons, and offering the public

assurance about how such events will impact their communities. Consumers would also be given more options for ways to consume cannabis in a legal, safe, and regulated way.


Portland's experience has shown that, absent a regulatory framework for either social consumption or cannabis event licensing, there will be inconsistency in how those issues are approached by the cannabis industry and cannabis consumers.

The City of Portland supports SB 307, and urges the Joint Committee to continue conversations and support a responsible regulatory framework for cannabis event licensing.

Sincerely,



City of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler



City of Portland Commissioner Chloe Eudaly