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Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 1:56 PM
To: adam crawford <adam.crawford@state.or.us>
Subject: SB 307, please forward to committee

Memo: Supporting SB 307

To: The Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation

From: John Sajo, Director of the Umpqua Cannabis Association I urge you to pass SB 307 which takes a small step in the right direction of setting clear guidelines for the social use of cannabis.

Measure 91 advocated for treating cannabis similarly to alcohol because that would be fair. Oregon voters passed the measure indicating support for that proposition. There are restrictions on where alcohol can be used in public but we all know that adults can gather together in all sorts of settings and enjoy alcohol together if they choose to do so. Cannabis users, in unfortunate contrast, are limited to enjoying cannabis in their homes, as long as they own one or have an agreeable landlord.

I can legally go to a winery, sample their product and if I like it, buy a case and take it home. There are numerous festivals with beer tents and all sorts of public events where alcohol is consumed, even with children nearby. There is a beer festival coming up at my local fairgrounds. At my local Fred Meyer, I occasionally get asked if I would like to sample some wine in the deli section. I can have beer or wine with dinner at hundreds of restaurants. But there is not a single public place where I can sit with friends and enjoy cannabis.

This is unfair and unjust. I also believe that it contributes to more social problems. Marijuana is safer than alcohol. Prohibiting all public consumption of cannabis drives some people to drink some of the time. Some people would prefer going out and enjoying cannabis but because it is not possible, they go out and drink. My life experience tells me that creates problems for the drinker and for the public. Prohibiting public consumption of cannabis does not stop public consumption, it just drives it underground. People are smoking in their cars and on the street because they often have no legal alternative.

Permitting public social use with reasonable guidelines that protect public health will allow the culture around cannabis use to evolve in the safest and healthiest ways. Other testimony to this committee raises the issue of workers being exposed to second hand smoke and that is a legitimate concern but one that can certainly be addressed by rules which protect workers but do not prohibit use.

Allowing areas where public social consumption is allowed could also generate substantial revenue. This revenue should be directed towards tracking public health issues related to public consumption and finding solutions.

Marijuana has been legal for three years but I still am being treated like a second class citizen. Please pass SB 307 and continue to work towards treating cannabis and those citizens who enjoy it fairly.

Thank you

John Sajo, director Umpqua Cannabis Association 541-530-2221