



Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association

www.oregoncannabisretailers.com

541-632-4442

May 30th, 2017

To: Members of the Legislature's Joint Committee of Marijuana Regulation

Re: **Testimony regarding SB 307, -3 Amendments**

Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation,

My name is Casey Houlihan and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association. We represent the largest trade association of cannabis businesses in the state with over 170 members. We are made up of retail cannabis businesses, as well as other OLCC licensees making and selling retail cannabis products and ancillary businesses working with retailers who are entirely dependent on the success of Oregon's legal market.

I wanted to reach out to you on behalf of our association to support the -3 Amendments to SB 307.

Our state's efforts to legalize cannabis have been stunted for many Oregonians who lack a place in which they are allowed to consume cannabis in a safe and legal environment. Many folks, especially those in public housing or of particularly modest means, are prohibited from consuming cannabis in their residences, despite the fact that the use of the substance is legal. These restrictions we have placed on public consumption often go ignored as a result, and Oregon is still struggling with how to address the issue of legal use and possession but no legal place to consume.

SB 307 -3's would take the important next step of licensing venues at which consumers can safely and legally consume cannabis outside of public view. This should produce and overall reduction in the number of folks who are forced to consume cannabis illegally on our streets or in our public parks by establishing the appropriate venues.

The latest version of the bill is a product of many hours of conversations between stakeholders and lawmakers, and represents a great deal of concessions made on the part of industry to help ensure that the public health concerns of policymakers have been adequately addressed and that do not compromise portions of our Clean Indoor Air Act.

The bill also includes provisions to ensure that localities can ultimately determine whether or not these licensed, regulated venues are the way they would like to address the issue, and the ability to opt-in/opt-out. No city or county shall be forced to allow these social consumption venues, and must opt-in in order to allow them.

We feel that this bill [SB 307] is a critical next step to completing our state's well regulated system or legal cannabis sales and consumption. As such, we strongly urge the committee to adopt the -3 amendments to SB 307, and to pass the bill out of committee with a do-pass recommendation.

Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Respectfully,

Casey Houlihan
Executive Director
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