

February 14, 2017

To: Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation

Dear Members of the Committee:

We, the undersigned members and allies of the Oregon cannabis industry, are writing to express our support for the passage of SB 307, which would provide for consumption and sale of cannabis items at (a) temporary events or (b) cannabis lounges, subject to regulation by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) and local government.

What problem does SB 307 solve?

Currently, adults and patients who purchase cannabis in Oregon have nowhere to consume it legally unless they own their own home. This has led some otherwise well-intentioned users to consume openly on sidewalks or in public parks, as a recent [Portland Mercury](#) article explained. SB 307 would establish a common-sense policy for social consumption. By allowing social consumption of cannabis by responsible adults within designated and licensed areas, SB 307 would reduce problems associated with public use.

Who cares about this issue?

SB 307 would improve quality of life for a number of groups who are dissatisfied with the current gaps in Oregon's cannabis rules, including:

- Medical cannabis patients who have nowhere to legally consume their medicine.
- Families living in public housing, especially under federal programs (i.e. Section 8), who risk losing their homes if they possess or consume cannabis.
- Parents not wanting to subject their children to cannabis consumption at home.
- Renters who live in buildings that prohibit cannabis consumption on the premises.
- Marijuana retailers who wish to advise customers on how to safely consume.
- Alcohol retailers who face potential liability if cannabis is consumed on their premises.
- Neighborhood associations with member residents and businesses located near existing cannabis businesses where customers may currently consume in public.
- Schools and other community centers.
- Students living in campus housing.
- Tourists staying in hotels.

What about local policy?

Consistent with existing Oregon law, SB 307 preserves the rights of local governments to license and regulate commercial cannabis businesses within their jurisdiction. SB 307 is entirely "opt in." It would not "force" any government to issue licenses allowing social cannabis consumption.

Sincerely,

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Supporters:



Ethical Cannabis Alliance

