



Public Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 307

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

Thank you all for helping implement regulated cannabis commerce in Oregon. With the creation of thousands of new jobs and the generation of millions of dollars in new revenue, we have created a regulated system that Oregonians can be proud of and is in line with the Measure 91 campaign supported by 56% of voters. While there is still work to be done, particularly in ensuring safe access to low-income patients and providing economic opportunities to small farmers and businesses across the entire state, legalizing, regulating and taxing marijuana is working in Oregon.

Licensing regulated establishments, where responsible adults can legally and safely use cannabis with other responsible adults, in localities that have approved of the licensed activity, is another sensible common sense step in the right direction. We urge you to pass Senate Bill 307, a pragmatic proposal that will create jobs, generate revenue and benefit our economy. If passed, SB 307 should also reduce the number of people smoking marijuana in public view as well.

In addition to the economic benefit of more licensed marijuana business activity, there are compassionate reasons to support licensed cannabis consumption establishments as well. Many low-income patients struggling through poverty and severe and debilitating medical conditions live in housing that prohibits cannabis use inside. The allowance of OLCC-regulated cannabis consumption establishments will benefit patients that are forced to either stop using their medicine or to violate the law by smoking in public.

Senate Bill 307, by requiring local approval first, is a limited and rather conservative measure that provides for extreme local control. New Approach Oregon also supports Senate Bill 788, a broader measure that allows localities to opt-out of social consumption licenses, giving localities the ability to implement the proper policies for their communities. Unfortunately, SB 788 hasn't been scheduled for a hearing yet, but if considered, the proposal is also a positive bill.

Thank you so much for considering the ability of cities and counties to allow the licensed and regulated social consumption of cannabis. I look forward to discussing this issue, and other marijuana policy proposals, with you further.

Respectfully,

Anthony Johnson
Director, New Approach Oregon