



CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



**Bureau of Police**

Charlie Hales, Mayor

Michael Reese, Chief of Police

1111 S.W. 2nd Avenue • Portland, OR 97204 • Phone: 503-823-0000 • Fax: 503-823-0342

Integrity • Compassion • Accountability • Respect • Excellence • Service

March 5, 2013

MEASURE: HB 2702  
EXHIBIT: 2  
H BUSINESS & LABOR  
DATE: 3-8-2013 PAGES: 2  
SUBMITTED BY: Kevin Hogan

Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair  
House Business and Labor Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2702

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of HB 2702, which clarifies the Oregon Liquor Control Commission's (OLCC) authority to create and implement Alcohol Impact Areas (AIA) upon receipt and approval of a petition for rulemaking. An AIA is a geographically defined area within which the sale of certain alcoholic beverages can be controlled by Commission rulemaking.

The Legislature has delegated authority for regulating the sale and service of alcohol in Oregon to the OLCC. The Legislature has admonished the OLCC to construe that authority liberally to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all Oregonians. Until very recently, the scope of the OLCC's authority to create and implement an AIA was not in question. Clarification of this authority will ensure OLCC, in consultation with local governments and other stakeholders, has an effective means to carry out their obligations under state law.

The City of Portland spends an enormous amount of time and resources dealing with the criminal and social impacts of alcohol abuse in our community. Local governments are restricted under state law from regulating the sale and service of alcohol in Oregon. There are limited local options to help ensure safe and livable communities in dealing with these problems on the law enforcement side. The law enforcement option is largely reactive. This option is not only insufficient for providing safety and livability, but it is also the most costly scenario for taxpayers. The AIA option is a mechanism to reduce law enforcement calls for service and to minimize the impacts of problem street drinking on businesses and neighbors.

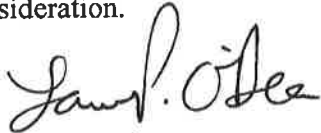
Certain types of alcoholic beverages play a leading role in the problem street drinking that plagues certain areas of Portland and other cities across the state. Those beverages all have two common factors: they have a high alcohol percentage and are inexpensive. When the availability of these beverages is curtailed within certain areas, criminal and public nuisance incidents drop accordingly.

**Community Policing: Making the Difference Together**  
**An Equal Opportunity Employer**

City Information Line: 503-823-4000, TTY (for hearing and speech impaired): 503-823-6868 Website: www.portlandpolice.com

Two examples from Washington State illustrate the effectiveness of AIAs. The City of Tacoma saw a 35 percent decrease in emergency medical service incidents and a 61 percent decrease in "liquor in the park" police calls in the year following implementation of their AIA. Similarly, the City of Seattle saw a 9 percent decrease in Sobering Unit Van pick ups and a 15 percent decrease in adult liquor violations in the two years following the implementation of their AIAs. The City of Portland and other communities in Oregon deserve a chance to achieve similar public safety and quality of life improvements for local citizens.

The City of Portland respectfully requests your support on HB 2702. Thank you for your consideration.



LAWRENCE P. O'DEA  
Acting Chief of Police

LPO/ETH/drh

c: Assistant Chief of Investigations Donna Henderson  
Captain Ed Haman, Drugs and Vice Division