



City of Ontario

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Office of the Chief

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RE: HB 3170

Dear Chair Barker,

As Police Chief for the City of Ontario, I am greatly concerned that our citizens will be put at risk if law enforcement officers do not have the tools necessary to apprehend, retain, and prosecute those driving under the influence of marijuana/cannabis.

There is no other scenario across the state like Ontario. We have a metro area in the non-legalized state of Idaho in close proximity. There are approximately 800,000 people in several SW Idaho counties with direct access to Ontario. No other border city will experience the influx of a transient population seeking marijuana like Ontario will have.

Under current law, police officers do not have the ability to determine whether or not people are posing a danger to the public while under the influence of cannabis. The testing process is not as easily apparent like results from an alcohol breathalyzer. We have to rely on Drug Recognition Experts, who are highly trained and certified officers who conduct those type of investigations. Being a very rural County, we have a limited number of those officers available.

HB 3170 will help establish a standard for determining whether or not a person is under the influence of marijuana. I would like to ask your support in passing it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Alexander', written over a horizontal line.

Chief Mark Alexander