

Co-Chairs Lininger and Burdick, Members of the Committee,

The voters passed a referendum establishing the OMMP many years ago and M91 was enacted last November by a significant majority of voters. Unfortunately, some local governments acting under the guise of the Association of Oregon Counties and League of Oregon Cities seek to undo the will of the voters using an overly broad agenda along with threats of legal action if they don't get their way.

The AOC, et al, are in fact private corporations and thus poor surrogates for local officials. These not-for-profit corporations set policy and make other important decisions affecting the public without providing opportunity for public comment much less scrutiny. They in fact operate in the dark and exclude the public from all proceedings despite the important policy implications of their actions.

It is therefore not surprising that these corporations seek to undo the will of the voters by proposing amendments that would allow any local governing body to ban dispensaries and processors altogether.

I would propose that an opt-out similar to that adopted in M91 be incorporated for the OMMP. I see the -23 amendment contains such a provision, which might be a suitable compromise given the sweeping demands of several of the "no-counties" and their surrogate corporation(s).

The will of the voters should only be undone by a corresponding vote of the people. The ongoing process of delay and unreasonable demands has gone on long enough. It is time to carry out the will of the people.

Thank you very much.

Les Helgeson