

February 2, 2016

## Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization

Today, as a matter of principle, the consumption of cannabis is legal in Oregon. We are limited only by two exceptions - we cannot consume cannabis indoors... and we cannot consume cannabis outdoors....

I ask the committee to adopt the -4 amendments (dated 1/29/2016) to Senate Bill 1511. Last session, Enrolled House Bill 2546 (2015) amended the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act to prohibit the inhalation of cannabinoids in public places or places of employment. The -4 amendments are drafted narrowly to allow members-only cannabis cafés as an exception to the prohibition on cannabis consumption in places of employment. The exception is similar to tobacco-related exceptions in favor of cigar bars and smoke shops.<sup>1</sup>

Since 2009, Madeline Martinez and the World Famous Cannabis Café have provided a safe community setting<sup>2</sup> out of public view in which Oregonians with valid OMMP cards could assemble peaceably with like-minded individuals and consume cannabis.

As a result of changes in HB 2546 and rules adopted by the Oregon Health Authority, existing businesses - like the café - potentially are subject to penalties of \$500 per day to a maximum of \$4,000 per month.

I was asked: "Is the Cannabis Café really "World Famous?" I promised to deliver a map pinned by visitors to the café from around the world. To the left of the map, the Hawaiians are in the house... to the right, the Aussies, Kiwis and Japanese are in the house. The café has received visits from Russia and India... Mecca and Dubai are represented... Africa has found home in the café and the Europeans are well represented in the Café's house.

We do what I have heard touted so many times in the Statehouse: The World Famous Cannabis Café serves an important service in its local community while also growing its economic impact in Oregon as an international destination for tourism. The Café is an example of small business working for Oregonians and building the

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1 I note that cannabis cafés do NOT sell cannabis.

2 I mean this literally. Law enforcement has never been called to intervene in any hostile event at the World Famous Cannabis Café.

Oregon brand internationally.

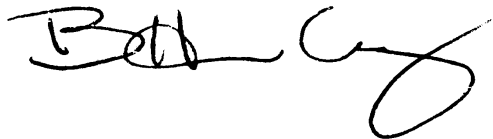
At the committee's most recent meeting, I provided committee members with the text of a petition supporting the amendments. This week, we will deliver 225 signatures collected from visitors to the café over 20 days<sup>3</sup> between January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>.

With Measure 91, the sovereign electors of Oregon informed its representative governments - statewide - that we are legal consumers of cannabis. The time has come to end the war on cannabis and the time is past for local governments to use our tax dollars to obstruct Oregonians in the responsible legal consumption of cannabis.

As with any small business, this model will not succeed in locales where there is not a sufficient community of interest to support it. But - even in cities and counties that voted 55% against Measure 91 - up to 45% of your electors have announced that they are ready to stop hiding in their basements.

Please support our right to assemble with like-minded individuals by carving out an exception for social consumption in private cannabis cafés.

Fiat justitia,



B Harrison Conley,  
Executive Director

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3 The café is closed on Sundays and signatures were collected at one off-site event.