



Public Testimony in Support of SB 1511 -16

To the Members of the Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization:

My name is Casey Houlihan and I serve as the Executive Director of the Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association. We are a non-profit trade association of over 100 retail cannabis businesses located across the state. **We are here to offer our support for SB 1511.**

We feel that this bill provides a solid framework for moving forward the state's nascent cannabis industry, and furthering the implementation of our state's regulatory policies. We hope to continue working with the legislature in the remainder of session to help pass additional pieces of legislation to refine some of the concepts in the bill, but this piece of legislation holds up on it's own as an important next step for Oregon and for the industry.

Co-location of Medical and Adult-use Facilities – The -16 amendments to SB 1511 create a path for businesses to be able to participate in the regulatory regimes established by the OHA as well as the OLCC. This prohibition is the one most frequently cited as a concern for the members of our group, and the resolution to this concern outlined in SB 1511 is adequate and should provide businesses clarity on how to move forward.

Expanding Products Allowed During 'Early Sales' – Our association feels that one of the most crucial components of successfully implementing a retail cannabis market is the addition of value-added products beyond just dried flower. The proposal in the -16 amendments to SB 1511 call for including non-psychoactive topical products, low-dose edibles, and limited amounts of extract products. We feel that this is a very sensible approach, and we support expanding the type of products available to consumers to help them gain a familiarity with these products over time – and allow some to begin safely educating themselves ahead of the OLCC's launch of more retail products later in the year.

'Grace Period' for Restrictions on Production Sites Applying for OLCC Licenses – Many in our association have expressed concerns about how to legally transition their production facility from OHA to OLCC licensure. Previously, this transition had not been clearly outlined. SB 1511 -16 creates a sensible transition process for existing producers.

In summation, we strongly urge the members of the committee to adopt the -16 amendments to SB 1511, and to send it to the Senate with a do-pass recommendation.

The Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association (ORCA) is a non-profit trade association of over 100 member businesses working to develop smart cannabis policy for Oregon that prioritizes public safety while allowing our economy to thrive. For more information, please visit us online at www.oregoncannabisretailers.com