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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization

RE: Portland NORML Comment on SB1511-4 (Cannabis Clubs)

February 12, 2016

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Co-Chairs Lininger and Burdick and Committee Members:

I write in my capacity as Chair of Portland NORML's Legislative Committee in support of SB1511-4. I regret that I am unable to attend this afternoon's session but Ms. Rinehart, our lobbyist, has agreed to present this information on our behalf.

Last session, the Legislature amended the Indoor Clean Air Act to avoid a patchwork of local regulations regarding the vaporization of nicotine and access by children. Most of the legislation added vaporized and aerosolized nicotine to restrictions in place regarding tobacco (placement of products above child height; no consumption at point of sale, etc.).

Representative Barker and an OSP Trooper requested an amendment to treat cannabinoids like liquid nicotine to enable enforcement of the prohibition of public use, particularly for vape pens (e-cigarettes containing liquid cannabinoids). I testified against this proposal and presented the scientific evidence that there was no harm from exhaled vaporized cannabis (second hand vapor) which is also true for smoked cannabis, OHA's Retail Marijuana Science Advisory Committee's false claim to the contrary notwithstanding.

I left the building with the understanding that so long as the location was private, (i.e. a membership fee was assessed at the door) and there were no employees, cannabis clubs would be permitted. Last fall, OHA promulgated rules to implement the amendment

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which made clear that such clubs would not be permitted, and that if there was a complaint made to a County's Health Department, the club would be fined \$500/day. Our friend Madeline Martinez has already been threatened by Multnomah County with such fines regarding the World Famous Cannabis Café.

The -4 Amendment corrects this oversight in a common sense manner and the Committee should adopt the amendment. Regarding OHA's concerns, our thoughts are that the accurate ones can be addressed this session (either as a part of SB1511 or as a part of the Christmas Tree Bill) and those which are without merit can be easily disregarded.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leland R. Berger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leland" being the most prominent part.

Leland R. Berger  
Chair, Portland NORML Legislative Committee