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Oregon Marijuana Safety Standards Association (OMSSA)

Members of the Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,

I am writing to let you know that OMSSA is in support of SB 1057. The first part of this bill, which provides Oregon Liquor Control Commission with additional power to enforce state marijuana laws; is necessary to keeping this newly forming industry safe and well regulated.

In section 4 it states

Except as otherwise provided by law, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission has any power, and may perform any function, necessary for the commission to prevent the diversion of marijuana from a source that is legal under state law to a source that is not legal under state law.

I have seen first-hand some of the questionable activity surrounding the marijuana industry in my tours of different marijuana grow sites, processing sites, warehouses, vendors, and dispensaries. When I came across these questionable activities I tried to report it to authorities and was told that there was little to be done as enforcement had not been properly appointed to anyone. I was also told that laws were too complex to know if the questionable activity was legal or not.

For this reason I feel it is important for any Regulatory Specialists to be trained to recognize any of the illegal activities that surround the marijuana industry in a direct attempt to keep legally grown marijuana from being sold to illegal sources.

OMSSA started with the purpose of helping to establish safety standards in the marijuana industry. However, OMSSA knows that enforcement is vital to any safety standard being taken seriously. In this manner OMSSA thanks Senators Ginny Burdick and Ted Ferrioli for requesting this bill to address the lack of enforcement currently in the marijuana industry. OMSSA also hopes that the other members of the Joint Committee on Marijuana regulation see the need to imbue the power of enforcement to the agency tasked with regulating the marijuana industry.

This bill would allow there to finally be an agency endowed with the power to enforce the marijuana laws that are intended to keep the public safe.

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