



Testimony in Support of HB 2198 -7 amendments

Co-Chairs Burdick, Linger and Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Kristine Evertz, testifying on behalf of the Oregon SunGrowers Guild in support of HB 2198, and the -7 amendments.

The Oregon SunGrowers Guild is the leading trade association representing outdoor cannabis producers in Oregon who advocate for ecologically sound SunGrown cultivation, the medical patients they serve and all Oregonians who benefit from clean and safe cannabis. We believe that sustainable SunGrown agricultural methods produce a superior holistic product for medical patients as well as recreational cannabis users. The Guild has a diverse membership ranging from very small medical-only growers to large outdoor Tier II licensed recreational producers. It's also worth noting that we have many medical grower members that are very interested in, and are presently preparing to move into, OLCC's micro canopy program and are looking forward to working with the OLCC. We appreciate the important work this committee is doing to ensure the vitality of both the medical and recreational systems in this developing new landscape for cannabis.

HB 2198 in its original form heeds the clarion call to restructure the medical program and now with the -7 amendments has merged in elements of SB 300 as well as elements of SB 1057 also before you today.

We respect and applaud the sincere efforts of this bill to address the unique needs of medical cannabis patients and their providers in this state. In particular we support the establishment of the Oregon Cannabis Commission to focus on the therapeutic uses of this diverse plant. HB 2198 with the -7 amendments preserves the medical program as separate, but creates a governing body for OMMP that can truly modernize the program and build for the future, ensuring that Oregon can position itself as a national and international leader and have a distinguished future in medical cannabis.

There are some pain points in this bill, to be sure. Merging medical and recreational under a singular tracking system will be difficult for many growers and patients, (both technically and financially), but with a strong cooperative partnership between the OCC and OLCC our hope is that it can be done in a way that doesn't disrupt the supply of medicine or create undue financial burdens for small agrarian growers and their patients. We would have preferred to see more resources and energy dedicated to fully implementing and strengthening the existing OHA tracking system which has only been in existence for less than a year. This free, more simplified system of reporting could be cross-walked to METRC when there are transfers, an alternative that would be much less costly to administer. However, if it is the committee's strong preference to establish a singular system of tracking we believe HB 2198 is the best approach available, as it directs the newly created OCC to help oversee this endeavor with OLCC.

We appreciate and support drawing a bright line at 12 plants for households with 2 patients growing for themselves without needing to enter the tracking system. This will also narrow the universe of new

system users that must be transitioned into seed-to-sale tracking, reducing administrative burden to the agency.

This bill wisely includes a key provision that provides modest but important access for medical growers to the recreational market through limited transfers to OLCC wholesalers and processors. This helps provide a place for excess medical product to go and offsets the loss of medical dispensaries after the mass migration over to recreational licensure. Another arrow in the state's quiver of preventing diversion.

We strongly believe that HB 2198 as embodied in the -7 amendments is the best vehicle for addressing modernization of the medical system through a combination of enhancements and accountability measures.

We would urge you to address fixes to the recreational system in SB 1057, and allow HB 2198 to move forward with its thoughtful reforms to the medical system.

Thank you for your time and consideration today.