

**Written Testimony of Rob Bovett, AOC Legal Counsel,  
before the House Judiciary Committee  
in Support of Senate Bill 323**

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Olson and Williamson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this brief testimony in support of Senate Bill 323, which comes to you from the Senate with 29 votes in favor and no votes against.

SB 323 is designed to fill a gap in Oregon law dealing with clandestine drug labs that catch fire or blow up and injure someone or damage property. These labs are more than just an unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance, and should be treated as such.

Most clandestine drug labs in Oregon are methamphetamine labs or butane hash oil (BHO) labs. Meth lab fires and explosions were addressed in [2005 HB 2185](#) §§ 3 and 4, adding them to Arson 1 and Arson 2. BHO lab fires and explosions were dealt with in [2017 SB 302](#) §§ 9 and 9a, with new sections that mirror the operative language of Arson 1 and Arson 2.

What that leaves are all other types of clandestine drug labs. Oregon usually has only one or two of those per year. They are generally more exotic, involve more complex chemistry, and pose real dangers. Examples are DMT, MDMA, and GHB.<sup>1</sup>

SB 323 fills the gap in Oregon law relating to these exotic clandestine drug lab fires and explosions by treating them like the other clandestine drug labs that catch fire or explode, with operative language that likewise mirrors Arson 1 and Arson 2.

Please support Senate Bill 323 to fill this important gap in Oregon law.

Sincerely,



Rob Bovett  
Legal Counsel  
Association of Oregon Counties (AOC)

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<sup>1</sup> "DMT" is dimethyltryptamine, a powerful psychedelic. Oregon law enforcement took down one DMT lab last year. "MDMA" is methylenedioxyamphetamine, better known as "Ecstasy" or "X." It's a powerful psychedelic stimulant, typically used as a party drug. Oregon law enforcement took down one MDMA lab in 2015, and one in 2014. "GHB" is gamma hydroxybutyrate, a powerful sedative, mostly known as a date rape drug. Oregon law enforcement took down one GHB lab in 2015.