

May 8, 2017

To: Honorable Co-chairs Burdick and Lininger,
Members of the Committee

From: Joseph Hopkins, Owner-Operator
The Greener Side
Eugene Oregon

Members,

We are writing in support of HB 2198 creating the Oregon Cannabis Commission and granting access to the recreational market for OMMP growers.

We support the creation of the Cannabis Commission as an important step forward for OMMP patients. This Commission and its reports back to the legislature will give Oregonians a better picture of the OMMP and help bring back confidence in patients that the OMMP will have a future in Oregon.

As an owner of an OLCC retail dispensary we were very pleased to see the section of HB 2198 that will allow the OMMP growers access to the recreational market. We support this effort and look forward to once again having access to the products produced by Oregon's medical marijuana growers.

Over the past months that we have operated under an OLCC license we have noticed a decrease in availability of quality medicines for patients especially the products developed for specific conditions. These craft strains are not being offered by the majority of the OLCC retail licensees and when they are available they are expensive and are gone before most patients can find them. We also find that the overall quality of what's available from OLCC producers has fallen and the prices have gone up – a prediction we made before the rush to OLCC from OHA by the majority of the OHA dispensaries.

Having medical product from OMMP growers and re-establishing our relationships with these growers will expand our product line for patients. We urge the committee to support and pass HB 2198.

Respectfully,

Joseph and Chelsea Hopkins,
The Greener Side, Eugene Oregon.