



Public Testimony Regarding House Bill 2198

Madame Co-chairs and members of the Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation:

As you consider House Bill 2198, it is imperative that state-licensed Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) growers have access to the state's regulated recreational market. If OMMP growers are not allowed access to the broader recreational market, unregulated marijuana will flood into the illicit market, trampling the goals of any rules and regulations that have been implemented.

If OMMP growers are going to comply with Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) tracking and reporting requirements, there is really no reason to prohibit medical growers from bringing excess cannabis into the OLCC system. Bringing OMMP cultivators into the OLCC market will benefit patients, consumers, small farmers and mom-and-pop businesses, keeping OMMP growers in the regulated system and ensuring that regulated prices can compete with the unregulated market. If OMMP growers are locked out of the OLCC system and pushed out of even the OMMP market, regulated businesses will find it very difficult to match the prices of illicit market as more and more marijuana floods the unregulated system.

Also, please pass the Dash 20 amendment that allows growers to use coordinates to register their gardens. New OMMP regulations have mandated street addresses, but this greatly disadvantages many small, rural farmers, who we want and need in the regulated system.

Once again, a sincere thanks for working towards sensible cannabis policies.

Respectfully,

Anthony Johnson
Director, New Approach Oregon