Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation



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Board of Trustees

April 11, 2017

Senator Ted Ferrioli Co-Vice Chair Joint Committee on Marijuana Regulation 900 Court Street, NE, S-323 Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Tribal Cannabis Tax Equity Bill

Dear Senator Ferrioli:

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Umatilla Tribes), this letter is to support the proposal for a Tribal Cannabis Tax Equity bill. The intent of this letter is to preserve our reserved rights and jurisdictions. We believe such a bill should support our government-to-government relations, and our rights as one of the two treaty tribes in Oregon. See the Treaty between the Walla Walla, Cayuses and Umatilla Tribes and Bands of Indians in Washington and Oregon, 12 Stat. 945, June 9, 1855, ratified March 8, 1859.

We support solutions to equitably address omissions in the taxing scheme imposed by Ballot Measure 91 (as amended). The measure imposes a point of sale (retail) tax on all items sold within the State market. While the State retail tax is clearly intended to benefit citizens statewide and address issues of statewide concern or impact, the State tax wholly neglects this tribe's rights. We recognize that each of Oregon's tribes are unique and have differing interests that are served or impacted by Oregon's program. The Umatilla Tribes would be interested in supporting a Tribal Cannabis Tax Equity bill to expressly recognize tribal regulation of marijuana-related activities and facilitates collection by Oregon's tribes of tax revenues associated with tribal regulation of marijuana-related activities to address critical needs facing tribal communities. Key components of such a bill would:

- Recognize tribal regulatory and taxation interests in marijuana-related activities associated with the marketplace;
- Equitably address tribes who opt into cannabis regulation in coordination with the State program;
- Prevent the possibility of double taxation by tribes and the State of Oregon which may harm the State marketplace and tribal economic and community development;
- Facilitate the collection of tribal taxes on tribally developed products to serve important tribal governmental interests.

The Umatilla Tribes would support a bill that achieves appropriate tax equity, regardless of whether the Oregon's tribes have engaged in cannabis regulation or in the cannabis industry.

Treaty June 9, 1855 ~ Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla Tribes

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We look forward to a Tribal Cannabis Tax Equity bill as a foundation to advance tribal interests as the State market and tribal regulatory participation matures.

Sincerely,

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Gary Burke, Chairman Board of Trustees