



Testimony in Support of HB 2198A

Co-Chairs Steiner Hayward, Rayfield and members of the committee, my name is Kristine Evertz, testifying on behalf of the Oregon SunGrowers' Guild in support of HB 2198A.

The Oregon SunGrowers Guild represents outdoor cannabis producers in Oregon who serve patients in the OMMP as well as OLCC licensed producers who provide clean, safe cannabis to adult use consumers. We appreciate the important work the policy committee did to restructure and modernize the medical system recognizing that the vitality of the medical system depends upon an accessible adult use market, and likewise, the adult use market depends on the existence of the medical system.

HB 2198A is the product of an exhaustive, collaborative process to bring together the various parties affected by this legislation to find some path forward that addresses the dual goals of protecting the grower-patient relationship and preventing diversion to the unregulated market. 36 proposed amendments and 4 hearings later we have the bill before you, and there is no doubt that it has been thoroughly vetted, there is just the remaining matter of funding for the Cannabis Commission.

The Guild is very supportive of the creation of the Cannabis Commission, especially its focus on research and patient access to affordable medicine. We believe this modest funding request is a small price to pay in order for the state to stand up a commission that will ensure the future vitality and modernization of the medical marijuana program.

We also strongly support the provision that allows narrow but critical 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.

In conclusion, the Oregon SunGrowers Guild would urge the subcommittee to pass HB 2198A to the full committee, which secures a stronger future for Oregon's OMMP and completes the policy package put forth by the Joint Marijuana Policy Committee.