

House Committee On Revenue

Dear Chair Barnhart, Vice Chair Smith and Smith-Warner, and committee members,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 4091 allowing the state to entire the banking business.

This is an unnecessary overreach of state government. It isn't that the Cannabis businesses don't have any access to banking. Currently, they use a LLC to secure bank accounts by setting up limited liability corporations that are management companies providing a list of services, from payroll to accounting to bookkeeping to property management. The money from the marijuana business flows to the company — usually with a nondescript name that doesn't disclose its ties to marijuana — and is deposited in the company's bank account.

A federal fix would be for Congress to remove marijuana from the list of Schedule I narcotics, putting the drug on par with an FDA-regulated medicine rather than heroin. The Oregon Bankers Association has led a Cannabis Banking Coalition that has brought together the bankers associations from approximately 20 states to discuss the challenges and possible solutions, and a state-run banking entity poses more problems than solutions.

It is not state governments place to compete with private industries. Since this bill is not limited to cannabis industry, it is more than a fix to a problem, which the state has no business providing a fix.

Donna Bleiler