

February 27, 2019

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

Senator Chuck Riley; Chair

Revised Testimony regarding Senate Bill 639

Senators:

My name is Bill Dickey, semi-retired Portland business man, employed in the printing industry for the last 20 years. My interest and testimony today regarding senate bill 639 comes from my earlier career in the restaurant and bar industry. Between 1974 and 1994 I was employed in the restaurant and bar industry and opened several bars in the Portland metro area, first as an employee and later as an owner. My interest in cannabis comes from being a land owner who leases farm land to cannabis farmers who produce CBD oils. Interestingly I am also good friends with a medical cannabis farmer and have learned about the benefits from medical marijuana from him and some of his patients. I myself am 24 years sober and don't partake in alcohol consumption or use drugs unless they are prescribed by my doctor.

At this time I am not a cannabis consumer, but I find it very confusing why we would allow for the consumption of alcohol as we currently do, but not similarly cannabis. This proposal is actually requesting that cannabis be regulated above and beyond the levels at which we currently regulate alcohol establishments. It's an opt-in bill, the law doesn't change unless a locality wants to establish rules and issue licenses. Cities and counties also get to craft these rules based on what matters most to their communities. The reality is people are consuming cannabis now, whether we like it or not. The questions is, do we want to ensure adults are consuming in a safe and responsible manner? If yes, licensing and regulating is the answer, just as it has been for alcohol."

Cannabis has changed greatly from my younger years. Just like many things in life the changes and refinement of this drug are fascinating. We need to let this industry blossom and grow, just as the microbrewery industry changed the beer industry from the days when I secured my first server permit and liquor license. For example: I can imagine letting the Waterfront Blues Festival have a cannabis tent much like a beer garden. The people who want try or taste it will visit, those who don't, won't. But it would be controlled, regulated, and the state can tax it. Users will appreciate it and the states budget coffers will appreciate it too! An old fashion win-win, now that's a good business model!

Thank You -

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