

Dear Senators,

Hello!

I hope this email finds you well!

I have lived in beautiful Southern Oregon for the last 4 years since legalization and the OLCC have allowed licensed cannabis farms in state. I moved here for a job from California wanting to be legal and contribute to my state and local community in a positive way. I feel that the farming of cannabis is bringing about a huge revolution in the common farming practices most of our current food farmers are using now. The idea of fully organic, and non pesticide use is a good thing for all of America not just Oregon.

With that being said I feel we can do this plant huge justice by developing education around this amazing medicinal natural herb. Oregon can be a leader in showing smart consumption practices and offering our recreational smokers a safe and comfortable place where they can consume legally and responsibly.

One way we can help with the education is by developing actual field trips to certain recreational facilities that meet certain criteria to teach the public about the cannabis plant. This will be a new cash crop with the farm bill being passed and there's no reason we cant capitalize on the profits of being one of the first states to actually teach about the cannabis strain, how it helps our body's and how organic sustainable farming practices help our soil and earth. It's already being found that we have levels of Glyphosate in our beer and wines because of these harmful pesticides being used on our grapes and hoops. It's our due diligence to teach what we know and use the tough regulations set on Cannabis farmers to really educate the mass population about the reasons why these strict regulations are put in place and why they really should push for more organic farming practices nation wide. It helps not only our state but the Nation as a whole.

Secondly with the legalization of recreational marijuana consumption we have seen an increase of tourist coming through Oregon. Every time I encounter someone that's not from Oregon they are always talking about how cool it would be to go stay at a consumption safe vacation spot geared towards total relaxation and holistic wellness. With so many people traveling from out of state to partake in and add to our recreational market we offer these same people no safe place to consume legally. We as a state have a responsibility to provide our tourist a safe and legal spot to consume a commodity that is now legal to buy in our state. Currently every tourist that comes in to Oregon and purchases legal weed is being forced to consume it illegally under current state laws. How does this make any sense? Unless the person is staying with a friend there are no places to safely consume under our current written laws.

We have bars everywhere, everyday someone is killed by a drunk driver but these bars still stay open. It's the responsibility of the person to not drive under the influence. We should treat cannabis the same as alcohol. It's not alright to drive under the influence, however there's nothing wrong with the actual consumption of the legal drug. We should have smoking lounges just like we have strip clubs and bars. I see no real difference between any of the three above. All require an ID of legal age to enter these establishments, all require the persons working at these establishments to have a state understanding of appropriate conduct and state laws, all customers attending these establishments know they are held completely liable should they get caught breaking laws (ie driving under the influence) etc.

For me this is a no brainer, it's just about making sure the proper laws are put in place and that every person in the establishments are trained appropriately on state laws.

I hope this has helped to bend an ear or two. I thank you for your time in reading my proposal.