



Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association

www.oregoncannabisretailers.com

541-632-4442

March 11th, 2019

Re: Testimony regarding HB 2909

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Fahey, and members of the committee,

My name is Jesse Bontecou from Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association (ORCA), representing more than 325 cannabis businesses across the state. Our members strongly support HB 2909 and ask that you do the same.

HB 2909 will improve the ability of local dispensaries to innovate and bring excellent, Oregon-grown cannabis products to their customer's doors—safely and reliably. This is an incredible opportunity for economic development in Oregon, in an industry that has already seen tremendous growth and demonstrated value.

The bill is very straight forward: it updates the ability to track cannabis deliveries by allowing a digital manifest or receipt rather than requiring an antiquated paper copy and also allows for orders to come in real time, thus leading to a quicker delivery as well as reducing the number of delivery vehicles on the road. It makes sense for dispensaries, it makes sense for consumers, and it makes sense for public safety and our economy.

HB 2909 will also open and expand markets for our retailers by allowing cities to permit delivery from adjacent cities or counties. This will allow our members to reasonably and safely meet the demands of adult cannabis users. Encouraging less illegal cannabis sales in those areas while contributing to our economy both through the support of local businesses and recreational marijuana taxes.

A lot has been said recently about the struggles of cannabis farms, but many retail locations are having just as hard a time as the farms. I have talked to numerous owners who have not taken a salary in the last two years. Some have had to go back to fulltime jobs in other industries to keep their shops open. In addition to being fair, reasonable, and safe this bill will help many of our members to innovate and more effectively compete with the illicit market. Thereby bringing more adult user into the legal market, which will give many shops the chance to go from barely surviving to thriving.

We urge your support of this bill! I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Jesse Bontecou
Deputy Director
Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association
Office: 541-632-4442
Jesse@oregoncannabisretailers.com
<http://www.oregoncannabisretailers.com>