

GROUNDWORKS

SERRA

ELECTRIC
LETTUCE

GROUNDWORKS
WORKSHOP

PRÜF CULTIVAR

Testimony in support of HB 2233

Submitted by Groundworks Industries

Geoff Sugerman, Chief Compliance Officer, OCA Board member

Groundworks Industries submits testimony today in support of HB 2233 with the -3 amendments. This bill is a result of a lengthy process undertaken over the interim by Representatives Ken Helm and Julie Fahey, two former members of the Joint Legislative Committee on marijuana, and Rep. Rob Nosse, who has become an active participant in many of the issues surrounding cannabis. We appreciate their work in bringing this bill forward.

Over the summer, these legislators, along with State Sen. Lew Frederick, convened an array of interested participants to meetings to discuss the right approach to providing Oregonians and those who visit our state opportunities to responsibly use cannabis in lounges or at temporary events such as the Oregon Cannabis Association's annual Summer Fair.

Included in these discussions were representatives from the ACLU, numerous health related organizations, law enforcement, and members of the cannabis industry. This bill comes from those discussions, and while there continues to be differing opinions on the right approach, this bill strikes a delicate balance between those competing interests.

This bill does not require an exception to the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act. It is clear to us that many legislators and many of the organizations at the meeting would not support allowing smoking of cannabis indoors. Instead this bill seeks to establish a middle ground similar to that which exists for tobacco smoking patios in bars and other locations, only in this case it is limited to licensed OLCC retail outlets only.

HB 2233 also allows the OLCC to issue permits for on-site consumption and providing samples to consumers at events, provided they meet with what we expect will be a strict set of rules developed to implement this program.

This is one of two bills thus far submitted in this session that we strongly support. The other bill, SB 420, would allow for the automatic vacating of sentences for people who were convicted of cannabis-related crimes that are now legal.

We see these two important bills continuing our state's efforts and progress ensuring that law abiding citizens, and tourists to our state, do not run afoul of our legal adult use cannabis program while we also work to restore the lives of the far too many people who suffered at the hands of prohibition.

We believe these are the two most important bills the legislature will consider this session, and we urge you to focus on truly meaningful reforms that will provide us with a positive path forward.

In addition to these two bills, we also strongly support increasing the number of inspectors and investigators at the OLCC, allowing the agency to do a better job of ensuring compliant activities among its licensees.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

We stand ready to assist in any way we can.