



ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: March 13, 2019
TO: House Committee on Economic Development
RE: HB 2233, relating to marijuana

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee:

While Lane County appreciates the work of those who have had a hand in crafting HB 2322 we cannot support the measure at this time. We fully understand the legal arguments suggesting that there are limited places for Oregonians and visitors to our state to legally consume marijuana products, yet the arguments regarding the pre-maturity of creating consumption at retail outlets and specially permitted outdoor special events tip us towards opposition of this measure.

In coming to this conclusion we note several key issues:

- Lane County has a growing roadway safety issue. Our County has the unfortunate situation of being at the top, or near the top, in roadway related fatalities. Fatalities occur from a combination of excessive speed, distracted driving, impaired driving, and lack of enforcement resources. The Lane County Sheriff's Office has just two Drug Recognition Experts on staff and limited traffic patrols. Marijuana impairment remains difficult to prosecute and data from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety shows that collisions are more frequent in states that have legalized marijuana. Providing additional opportunities to consume marijuana, particularly at locations which people may travel to and from using automobiles is only going to exacerbate a situation we already struggle with in Lane County.
- New opportunities for marijuana consumption will come with new marketing tools deployed by marijuana retailers and advocates. We note how appealing industry marketing is to youth, and Oregon Health Authority data shows that youth risk perception regarding marijuana continues to trend down, while their ability to access marijuana is getting easier. Public health staff in Lane County has limited tools to regulate marketing and HB 2233 will exacerbate that dynamic.
- Oregon's tax structure for legally produced marijuana has not adequately recognized the impact to Oregon's counties. As we have indicated in previous testimony to this Committee, the retail tax (local) structure provides almost no revenue to address public health, mental health, land use, and public safety issues that counties routinely deal with. It is exceptionally difficult to Lane County to be enthusiastic about additional impacts from marijuana use when this measure is silent with respect to the local taxation issue and we urge the Oregon Legislature to at least concurrently address that issue if it is to expand opportunities to consume marijuana in more public areas.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED