

Chair Representative Lively, Vice Chair Representative Bonham, Vice-Chair Fahey and Members of the House Economic Development Committee:

My name is Carlton Bone, I am a Portland Resident of the Alberta Arts district and the founder of the Upward Cannabis Kitchen, an OLCC licensed edible production facility that launched in Clackamas in 2016. We are a member of the Oregon Cannabis Association and are committed to community development through our partnership and work with the non-profit Harm Reduction group, the Portland People's Outreach Project.

I am writing to express my strong support of H.B. 2233 as a crucial step towards supporting the burgeoning state cannabis industry. Social consumption provisions are essential in decreasing stigma surrounding the plant and removing barriers to safe use while creating avenues for business growth through cannabis integrated experiences, such as cafes and private events.

Providing regulated spaces for social use eliminates the current regulatory landscape that functionally prohibits legal aged residents in Section-8 housing or on college campuses from consuming without the impunity afforded to others. Steps like expunging marijuana related offenses is a necessary step in continuing to undo the documented harms of the War on Drugs -- and I am grateful towards the legislature for its potential consideration of such a matter (S.B. 420) -- while empowering individuals to engage responsibly is the next step in changing cultural attitudes that remain pervasively stigmatizing. Individuals who wish to consume without a safe place are driven to improvise solutions such as using in or before operating a vehicle, creating real public health concerns and inadvertently criminalizing even just casual users. In the words of the Executive Director of Oregon's chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, Madeline Martinez, "Medical marijuana patients, renters, the poor, people of color and women are often the least likely to not have a safe legal space to consume legally purchased or possessed cannabis", and H.B. 2233 can change this.

The value of creating spaces where consumers can be educated about harm reduction approaches towards cannabis (such as dosage guidance, monitored use, and alternative deliveries such as edibles and topicals) can not be understated. Currently processors of such products face massive under-information regarding dosage and product differences. For example, the low dosed tea products our company produces are a far cry from the brownies that one friend ate at a college party, yet the difficulty in changing the narrative is due to widespread confusion around what reasonable consumption looks like and barriers to demonstrating product efficacy. While an interested customer can spend hours on end at a vineyard tasting various vintages, there is no reasonable opportunity for an individual interested in exploring a new cannabis edible or experimenting with a topical.

Our beverages are formulated to deliver a wellness focused experience to consumers. Being able to offer them through a social consumption venue or special event permit helps create this context while changing the narrative on who and how cannabis can be consumed while educating users to become more responsible. Many of our customers use our product to decompress after work or get over a creative block or engage with peers casually. We feel more individuals would do the same if they could experience low-dosed cannabis products in the right context. The market is ready to offer controlled environments for licensed businesses to educate and offer cannabis experiences to consumers, while legal-aged residents are due the opportunity for accessible, safer use opportunities.

For Oregon to remain a leader in the emerging international cannabis market, social consumption provisions are a necessary. As our market reaches peak levels of product saturation, creating new outlets for consumption and increasing the appeal and accessibility of cannabis to out of state, legal-aged visitors

is crucial to increasing demand and keep Oregon a competitive market for businesses. States like Colorado continue to forge ahead successfully in the creation of municipal level social consumption frameworks (e.g. Denver), while our neighbors in the North have recently legalized the plant for adult recreational use including provisions for public consumption, which is why we must start creating a framework now.

I ask that you support Oregon cannabis industry and our customers by voting "Yes" on H.B. 2233, thereby allowing us to pioneer the creation of a social consumption framework that would promote safe, legal access for some of our most marginalized populations and preserve Oregon's legacy in the de-prohibition of cannabis. Thank You.