

House Committee On Economic Development

I am writing today to ask that you consider the impact of SB 218 on your constituents. I do believe that it is important for Oregon to right size the supply equation in the Marijuana market. However, I do not agree that the best method is to deny those that are seeking to participate in the industry legally. If the real problem is the black market, why hasn't the legislative push been toward better enforcement? If growers are denied the right to become licensed isn't that going to just create more black market operations? This current track seems like a giant step backwards toward prohibition, which has always been a disaster.

Many of the people and companies that are seeking to obtain a license to grow cannabis have been working to do so for many years at this point. The cost to comply with Oregon's law is substantial. Many individuals have invested significant amounts of money in an effort to gain licensure, and with a two year freeze, those investments are effectively unrecoverable sunk costs. With your help this is an avoidable financial failure for these people. Many of the future business owners gladly made the investment because they believed that they were being given a chance to comply with the law and earn the license. The June 15, 2018 moratorium set a date for all interested parties to apply and to be given that chance. If this bill is meant to renege on the promise that the OLCC made to the applicants then I think its passing without modification to exclude those already in the queue would be a shameful financial ruse on the citizens of the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Blake Runckel  
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