



Written testimony re: HB 2416
House General Government Committee
Jan. 26, 2021

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to be in front of you today. My name is Derek Smith, I'm Executive Director of Resource Innovation Institute. We are an Oregon-based 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to advance resource efficiency to cultivate a better cannabis future. We have been funded by Energy Trust of Oregon and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, among other entities with public oversight, to educate cannabis producers about energy and water efficiency opportunities.

We are here today in support of HB 2416, which requests \$150,000 from the Marijuana Control & Regulation Fund for the design and pilot of a voluntary certification system related to energy and water standards for cannabis and hemp farms. It invites farmers and communities to the table to collaboratively design a system that will ultimately reward the good actors who are good neighbors in their communities.

The funding does not materially affect any agency budgets or disbursements to recipients of the Measure 91 (Oregon Marijuana Account) tax revenues. It is funded by fees paid by the industry, and many industry leaders are in favor of this investment, including Amanda Metzler of FARMS Inc. and Kim Lundin of Oregon Cannabis Association, from whom you will hear shortly.

Oregon was the first state to signal that it would take action on cannabis environmental issues by pulling together a task force in 2016. Other states have now surpassed us, though they are generally approaching these issues via regulation. We see the opportunity for Oregon to lead internationally on voluntary cannabis sustainability certification, as it does with other crops.

This is the third time we have brought this bill forward, and we hope it'll be the charm. Over three sessions, eight cannabis and hemp businesses have taken the time to travel to Salem in support of this effort. Likewise, the bill has earned the support of 20 bi-partisan, bi-cameral sponsors from rural, suburban and urban districts, and experienced zero opposition. Throughout this period, we have engaged with a variety of important stakeholders, who have expressed appreciation for our outreach and willingness to make amendments based on their concerns.

What's different this session is that the amount requested has been cut in half because of our recent receipt of a USDA award notice that will fund a certification system for agricultural

producers of a variety of crops, though not cannabis. As a result, the State has a unique and timely opportunity to leverage this federal investment.

I want to thank Representatives Wilde, Leif, Lively and Hernandez for your previous sponsorship.

I've provided supporting materials to assist your decision-making, and I'd be happy to take any questions. Thank you all for your time and your service.

Very best regards,

Derek Smith
Executive Director
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