



## Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association

[www.oregoncannabisretailers.com](http://www.oregoncannabisretailers.com)

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Chair Nathanson, and Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

Thank you all for allowing us to speak this afternoon. For the record, my name is Casey Houlihan and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association (ORCA), the largest trade association of cannabis businesses in Oregon, representing over 500 different member businesses – primarily retailers, but we have members throughout the supply chain of all license types and all sizes, from big businesses to mom and pop stores – located in every corner of the state.

We are here today to express our opposition to HB 2014.

From our reading of this bill, the result of the legislation – as written – would be a dramatic decrease in the portion of state cannabis tax dollars being distributed to municipalities in the Portland metro area.

While we recognize the need to direct tax revenues to the rural parts of the state responsible for the majority of cannabis production, we feel that this move would be imprudent at this juncture given that these revenue sources are somewhat new and that the municipalities within the metro area have created effective programs for community reinvestment based on these revenue sources.

Further, some local programs – like the City of Portland’s Cannabis Program – have been doing remarkable work in the areas of social equity, racial justice, and community investment for some of the predominantly BIPOC communities that were hit the hardest by unjust cannabis criminalization policies in the past, and where most of the state’s BIPOC residents reside. In order to maintain the ability to help right the wrongs suffered by these communities as a direct result of failed drug criminalization policies from recent decades, these revenue streams must be maintained.

We believe strongly that there will be other opportunities in the future to increase the revenue from the cannabis industry going to rural cities and counties – especially once we are at the point where the state is able to legally export our surplus cannabis to other legal states and countries. However, we are simply not there yet, and we believe a change of this magnitude is ill-advised at this time.

We ask the committee to take these factors into account as you consider this bill, and again we would like to reiterate our opposition to House Bill 2014 at this time.

Thank you for your consideration and I am happy to answer any questions you have at this time.

Respectfully,

Casey Houlihan

Executive Director, Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association.