

To whom it may concern,

As a local, Oregon-raised cannabis dispensary owner, I strongly oppose this proposed sales tax increase.

This would be detrimental to an already struggling fledgling industry, hitting us while we're already down. With already very slim profit margins (after years of successful operation), we already have a very challenging time generating a profit because of things like - IRS 280E, an archaic tax law originally created to inhibit drug smugglers in the 70's and 80's from being able to write off boats and houses as business expenses. We are legitimate, state sanctioned businesses, not able to make normal tax deductions, effectively paying federal tax rates 70% and higher.

We also struggle with lack of insurance services, lack of banking, no access to federal aid for natural disasters or covid, no bankruptcy protections, and are over regulated in general. An additional tax burden on operators would make our position even more challenging. Not to mention a price increase will drive our customers to the illicit market, with dangerous, un-taxed, and untested products. This is not what Oregon or our industry needs.

Thank you for your time,  
Sylvan