

Dear Chair Bynum and the Honorable Members of the House Committee On Judiciary,

As a representative of the Cannabis Workers Coalition, a nonprofit worker center advocating for fair and equitable labor rights in cannabis and hemp, I'm writing today to express my strong support for HB 3112 also known as The Oregon Cannabis Equity Act. As you may know, the call for a more equitable cannabis industry has been made throughout the nation and is often the forefront of conversations around legalization. Communities most harmed by cannabis criminalization are caught in a downward spiral from imprisonment, post-prison sentencing, a lifetime of limited opportunity in jobs, housing, access to capital, and more.

We urgently need to reverse any and all harm caused by the War on Drugs and the Oregon Cannabis Equity Act directly addresses that.

Oregon lags the nation and the West Coast by not having some kind of equity program for cannabis licensees. The Oregon Cannabis Equity Act would not only develop that, but also invests those cannabis tax funds into wealth and opportunity rebuilding programs for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities.

Black, Indigenous, and Latinx Oregonians deserve an equitable opportunity to join the blooming cannabis industry. Thank you for hearing our voices.

Sincerely,

Savina Fierro
Executive Director