

In support of SB 408-1: Relating to marijuana

Chair Riley and Members of the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

My name is Kim Lundin. I'm the Executive Director of the Oregon Cannabis Association.

The Oregon Cannabis Association (OCA), established in 2014, is a member driven organization representing some of the largest operators in our industry alongside small family run businesses, entrepreneurs who are just entering the market and the allied businesses who support our industry. Our mission is to help one another thrive through networking events, educational resources, and political representation. As Oregon's cannabis industry continues to grow, we seek clear and sensible regulations that promote health and safety in our communities, excellence in our products and services, and compliance at every level of our industry.

On behalf of OCA's membership, I'm asking for your support of Amendment 1 of SB 408. I'm proud to say that this amendment is the result of an industry wide effort to join together and craft common sense legislation to help our businesses operate more efficiently and meet the needs of our rapidly evolving and growing industry. The exponential growth of the regulated cannabis market has great potential for economic development in our state. The quickly evolving industry needs the legislative fixes in this amendment to support this continued growth.

I'd like to thank Sen. Prozanski and his office for Sponsoring this legislation and for his many years of championing common sense, policies around cannabis. For clarification, there was a second amendment recently filed for SB 408, which was misfiled as being submitted by the Oregon Cannabis Association. I believe this was a clerical error, because it was not submitted by my organization or any of our representatives. The OCA's full weight and support is behind Amendment 1 of SB 408. The items in the amendment are critical for our industry to thrive. You will receive testimony directly from our members on how their businesses are struggling under the challenges of over-regulation. Please keep in mind that this particularly impacts small businesses who do lack the capital to defend against violations and jeopardizes businesses of all sizes looking to compete on a national level.

We have been grateful to Executive Director Marks, his staff at the OLCC and the Commission for their willingness to work in partnership with the industry on these and other issues. Over my last two years with the OCA, I have seen the industry and the agency come together in a professional and productive manner that is vital to our long-term success. For this amendment, we are continuing to work with the agency on the language specifics, but from our conversations with Director Marks on the whole our goals are aligned and I'm confident that we'll come away with a bill package that will work for both the industry and the agency.

I ask for your support of Amendment 1 of SB 408, this legislation will support common sense industry regulation, that works in partnership with the industry for the growth of the legal recreational market.

Sincerely,

Kim Lundin
Executive Director
Oregon Cannabis Association