



Jo Ann Hardesty, *Commissioner*
Suk Rhee, *Director*

1120 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 114
Portland, OR 97204

503-823-4519

portlandoregon.gov/civic/cannabis

March 12, 2021

Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair
House Judiciary Committee,
900 Court St. NE, HR F
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee,

As the Cannabis Policy Oversight Team (CPOT), we advise the Office of Community & Civic Life within the City of Portland on policies to deliver industry diversity, equity, accessibility, and sustainability for the City's total benefit. Today, we write to express our support of the Oregon Cannabis Equity Act (House Bill 3112).

In our [2020 Annual Cannabis Policy Report](#), we recommended the City of Portland to push for a state-wide comprehensive cannabis equity framework and strategic vision for repairing the harm from decades of inequity and racially-biased cannabis criminalization in Black, Indigenous and Latino/a/x communities. We recognize that over 100 years of draconian cannabis policies and disparate cannabis related arrests, convictions, and sentencing have had long-lasting legal, social, economic, and inter-generational consequences to these specific communities.

Led by former State Representative Akasha Lawrence-Spence, HB 3112 is the culmination of over eight months of work by an 80+ person workgroup including the City of Portland, multiple state legislators, numerous cannabis companies and non-profit organizations, Urban League, and law students from Willamette University. Through the Oregon Cannabis Equity Act, cannabis tax dollars and other relevant funds would be directed towards repairing decades of injury by providing the necessary support for creating health equity, housing stability, education, and economic development for Black, Indigenous, and Latino/a/x communities.

As Oregon's adult-use cannabis market continues to see rapid growth, HB 3112 is an opportunity for the state to pass the most comprehensive and truly effective cannabis equity legislation in the United States. This bill focuses on widespread reinvestment in the communities that have been hurt most by cannabis prohibition. It also will implement free, automatic expungement of eligible cannabis convictions for everyone, eliminating the hurdles that have kept 20,000+ Oregonians from expunging their cannabis record. Finally, HB 3112 creates more opportunity for Black, Indigenous, and Latino/a/x business ownership and employment in the growing cannabis industry, which will also improve the diversity within the existing market.



The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 503-823-4000, Relay: 711.

503-823-4000: Traducción o interpretación | Chuyển Ngữ hoặc Phiên Dịch | 翻译或传译 | Письменный или устный перевод | Traducere sau Interpretare | Письмовий або усний переклад | 翻訳または通訳 | Turjumida ama Fasiraadda | שירות תרגום או שירות תרגום | الترجمة التحريرية أو الشفهية

