



## Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association

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

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Chair Wilde and Members of the House Committee on General Government:

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 licenses types and all sizes (including several licensed cannabis processors), from big businesses to mom and pop stores – located in every corner of the state

Thank you all for allowing us to provide written comment on HB 3239. We pardon our delayed response in commenting on this measure, but it was only very recently brought to our attention. We are here today to express our strong support for HB 3239.

The concerns that others have voiced with regards to the potential for fires or other public safety threats allegedly posed by licensed cannabis processing facilities is, frankly, preposterous.

These concerns seem to conflate the instances of fires and explosions at UNLICENSED, UNREGULATED, and ILLEGAL cannabis extraction operations with the tightly controlled and extraordinarily safe procedures undertaken but Oregon's licensed, regulated cannabis processors.

To date, there have been no instances of fires or explosions at any of the state's OLCC licensed cannabis processors – as the OLCC will attest. All cannabis processors and their associated locations are subject to extremely strict regulations, protocols, and even safety inspections by state and local regulatory officials in order to ensure no public safety risks are posed by their operation.

This bill would unfairly punish legal business owners for the dangerous activities undertaken by illicit market cannabis extract manufacturers – people who operate without oversight, in illegal underground facilities –(usually homes, basements, or garages), without no health and safety requirements, and often while improperly handling large volumes of volatile chemicals.

A licensed and regulated cannabis processing facility is no more dangerous, or no more of a fire risk, to the public health and safety of a community than a distillery business, microbrewery, or any storefront operation that sells tanks of propane gas or other flammable compressed air products.

It is for all of these reasons and others that we strongly oppose House Bill 3239.

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.