



The Oregon Cannabis Association
In Opposition to SB 1506

February 7, 2022

Chair Beyer, Vice Chair Boquist, and Members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee,

My name is Jonathan Manton, and I'm writing on behalf of the Oregon Cannabis Association to share our opposition to SB 1506.

The Oregon Cannabis Association was formed in 2014. We are a diverse group of over 250 business members-- cultivators, processors, retailers, entrepreneurs, and other allied businesses. Our mission is to help one another thrive through networking events, educational workshops and political representation.

Much of Oregon's legal cannabis sector is struggling. Our licensees compete with an unregulated market, don't have access to financial services, pay unusual security costs, can't deduct business expenses from federal taxes, and face numerous, unique regulatory burdens. Our members were also ineligible for federal Covid assistance. Wildfires, vandalism and robberies have also impacted our members financially with little assistance from outside funding sources.

Of even broader concern to Oregon is the current market saturation of cannabis and the horrors of the illicit market exploitation by organized crime and cartels. Our members report that the increase in pricing that would result from the passage of SB 1506 would indeed drive consumers from the legal and heavily market to the illicit ones.

We hear the concerns raised by local governments, and value them. We live in communities large and small throughout Oregon, and we very much want our cities and counties to be able to perform the valuable services necessary for safe and thriving communities. We hope there is a better solution to solve the funding problems than that proposed in SB 1506. We understand many conversations are happening in this regard in other committees.

Thank you each for your service to Oregon and for hearing our views.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Manton, Advocate
Oregon Cannabis Association