



November 30, 2023

Dear Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response:

The above business associations represent the interests of Oregon’s diverse business community from a variety of industries and with operations throughout Oregon. Today we write to you to thank you for serving on the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response and show our support for the discussions you will have on Oregon’s addiction, public safety, and behavioral health problems.

In crafting your solutions, we believe it is imperative that you broadly consult local governments, public safety experts, business leaders, behavioral health specialists, and addiction service providers to consider the effects Ballot Measure 110 and other timely issues, like the rise of fentanyl, has had on Oregon’s public safety and quality of life. It is our hope that your solution will acknowledge the real public safety issues experienced by Oregon’s families, employees, customers, business owners, and tourists throughout Oregon.

Businesses across Oregon—in communities small and large—face a proliferation of public safety issues. Examples include the open sale and use of drugs in parking lots and on sidewalks, right in front of consumers and employees; property theft, including individual actors and those affiliated with organized retail crime operations; vandalism and other property damage inside businesses, on buildings and storefronts, and on sidewalks and streets. Businesses have had to bear the cost of clean-up and repair, private security patrols and equipment, employee safety and training, stolen or damaged products, and the loss of foot traffic. While Ballot Measure 110 alone has not led to these problems, it has exacerbated them. Investments in law enforcement, changes to and enforcement of drug laws, tools to offset extraordinary costs to businesses, and a holistic system to address addiction are all part of the equation.

A successful response to this crisis will require you to determine how each system can compliment the other for the greatest results. Crafting that system will require new tools and approaches to ensure local communities and law enforcement has what is needed to combat this crisis.

We encourage you to take bold action to solve those problems during the 2024 legislative session. Communities throughout Oregon simply cannot wait until 2025 and beyond for real solutions.

Thank you for your consideration.