

Hello,

In lieu of not being able to speak at today's information hearing, we wanted to reach out and share our thoughts on the issues surrounding Measure 110 and how it's impacting our small business and daily lives. We own Sewell Sweets in Downtown Salem.

Daily, we witness public displays of drug use outside the windows of our place of business. Individuals are consuming heroin, methamphetamine, and other unknown substances in broad daylight where children are present. This drug use results in behavior that often leads to conflict with anyone near the user and always leads to a very unpredictable environment. We have witnessed unspeakable behavior, have been verbally harassed and threatened often, and are frequently witness to indecent exposure causing extreme discomfort and safety concerns for ourselves, our children, our team, and our patrons. As a family-run business where our children are regularly present, we are deeply concerned by the fear our children have developed by virtue of what they have witnessed. We opened our business in November 2022 and thought we were aware of the risks and challenges that awaited us. We did not know how local law enforcement would be limited by what they could enforce; we did not know firsthand the despair on our streets. In our experience, law enforcement seems unable to truly do anything about the situations and as they are just humans too, they often seem personally deflated when dealing with these situations. The scenes that we see day in and day out leave us frustrated and questioning just how safe the longevity of our business and livelihood is. We want to feel stable and secure and know that our law enforcement can aid us adequately when such situations arise. Small businesses are the heart of our Downtown Salem and we want to protect them and the families behind them. We wish for all individuals facing addiction to be able to be helped and to be safe. We also wish for all individuals who are not facing addiction to be equally safe. Our family, and so many others just like us, have invested so much into this city and we want to feel that reciprocated.

Thank you for your time.

Cat and Chad Sewell  
Sewell Sweets  
155 Liberty St NE Ste 160  
Salem, OR 97301  
971.287.7171  
[www.SewellSweets.com](http://www.SewellSweets.com)  
[instagram.com/sewellsweets](https://www.instagram.com/sewellsweets)  
[facebook.com/sewellsweets](https://www.facebook.com/sewellsweets)