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Thursday March 22, 2023

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Morgan and Nguyen, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

I write today to add my voice in support of HB 3431 as Policy Coordinator of the Cannabis Program at the City of Portland. The work of the Cannabis Program in the City aims to support a more equitable community, and certainly the passage of HB 3431 will help us serve that purpose.

The Cannabis Program works to find ways to sustain equitable policies and help communities impacted by cannabis prohibition, and we applaud efforts in Salem that pursue mutual goals. The 2022 SB 1579 which created the Economic Equity Investment Program was a step in the right direction toward supporting economic stability, self-sufficiency, and economic equity for Oregonians. Passage of HB 3431 and use of The Oregon Marijuana Account to fund the Economic Equity Investment Fund will be another positive investment in the future of the lives of our neighbors here in Portland and throughout the state of Oregon.

HB 3431 will further the efforts in our state to ensure economic justice. The individuals, families, and communities that can be helped through the Economic Equity Investment Program will benefit for years to come.

We urge your support of HB 3431 to fund the EEIP and to close the wealth gap in communities across the state.

Thank you,

Phil Keim

Thillip C. Veim

Policy Coordinator | Cannabis Program Office of Community & Civic Life 1120 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 114 Portland, Oregon 97204



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