

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lori Rietze, and I am a licensed Oregon cannabis retailer serving my local coastal community.

I respectfully oppose SB 1548A due to the unintended consequences it would create for consumers, small businesses, environmental sustainability, and public safety.

Existing Safety Protections

Protecting youth and preventing accidental ingestion is a shared priority. All Oregon cannabis licensees operate under strict age verification requirements, child-resistant packaging laws, and ongoing consumer education and compliance responsibilities. SB 1548A would add significant costs and operational burdens without meaningfully improving safety, while creating barriers for consumers and destabilizing Oregon's regulated market.

Affordability and Medical Access

Single-package 100mg edibles remain one of the most affordable and practical options for many adults, particularly individuals using cannabis for sleep, chronic pain, anxiety, and other wellness needs. Requiring each serving to be individually wrapped would significantly increase production costs that will ultimately be passed on to consumers. For many people — especially those on fixed incomes — this would effectively remove affordable regulated options and limit access to consistent, tested products. Demand will not disappear; safe access will.

Impact on Small Businesses and the Regulated Market

Oregon licensed producers and retailers are already navigating tight margins and regulatory pressure. The packaging changes required by SB 1548A would require new equipment, additional labor, increased materials, and production space that many small operators simply cannot absorb. SB 1548A would unintentionally force small producers out of the market, reduce consumer choice, and push some consumers toward the unregulated market where products lack testing and safety protections.

Environmental Impact

SB 1548A would dramatically increase single-use packaging waste through excessive plastic and foil wrappers layered within existing child-resistant containers, creating unnecessary landfill impact without clear evidence of improved safety outcomes.

Unintended Safety Concerns

Individually wrapped servings may introduce new safety risks once separated from the original packaging. Small wrappers can be left in vehicles, purses, backpacks, or shared living spaces, increasing opportunities for accidental exposure. These wrappers may also present a choking hazard for young children and pets — a concern that does not exist with consolidated packaging.

Education and Safe Storage Solutions

Preventing accidental ingestion is best addressed through education and safe storage practices in the home. Programs similar to the well-known “Mr. Yuck” poison prevention campaign demonstrate that awareness and behavior change are highly effective in protecting children. Licensed retailers already support this effort by educating consumers about responsible use and safe storage. Expanding statewide awareness campaigns, poison control partnerships, and storage guidance would more directly address real-world risks than additional packaging requirements.

Conclusion

Oregon has worked for years to build a regulated cannabis system that prioritizes safety, transparency, and accountability. SB 1548A risks undermining that progress while creating unintended safety and economic consequences.

Real safety does not come from more wrappers — it comes from informed adults, safe storage, and continued education.

I respectfully urge the Committee to vote NO on SB 1548A and pursue collaborative, education-focused solutions that protect youth while preserving access, small businesses, and Oregon’s regulated market.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Lori Rietze
Hippy Trip
Depoe Bay, Oregon