

Submitter: Alan Rutherford
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small
Business, and Trade
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1548

My name is Alan Rutherford. I am the former owner of Nature's Alternative, later The Wild West Emporium, a dispensary. While setting up the business right after legalization, the rules changed and changed again, entailing huge unnecessary costs due to the fact the nobody knew what they were doing in Salem. They imposed an onerous inventory system on us, one which no liquor store owner had to contend with. They seemed to change the rules and licensing provisions on a monthly basis, requiring ever-changing and increasing fees and taxes. Now, it has been proposed that the products be sold in individually wrapped small portions and that larger 'bulk' purchases will now be made unavailable. This packaging requirement will add CONSIDERABLE cost to carrying inventory and, as such, a vastly increased price to the purchasing public. The large additional expense will encourage purchasers in the legal market to return to the illegal black market for their needs, as the black market has no such regulations. This will definitely encourage vast growth of the illicit market which, of course, is unaffected by laws and regulations. This includes the purity of the product. The black market has no standards for contamination, mold and any other factor which is unhealthy for the buying public. What this law does is strengthen the illicit market and enrich people who thumb their noses at the law and regulation. You are going to make criminals richer and happier. Congratulations on another very poorly thought-out piece of regulation. It will kill the legal business, along with the tax revenue derived from it.