

## **Chair and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Gary Bracelin, and I am the owner of Tokyo Starfish, a licensed cannabis dispensary in Bend, Oregon. I am writing to express serious concerns about SB 1548A, currently before the Economic Development Committee.

Protecting youth is a goal we all share. As a regulated retailer, keeping cannabis out of the hands of children is a responsibility I take very seriously. However, I believe this legislation would unintentionally create new risks while causing significant harm to Oregon's regulated cannabis market, small businesses, and state revenue.

While SB 1548A is intended to enhance public safety, its practical impacts could increase underage access, eliminate jobs, reduce tax funding for important state programs, and push consumers toward unregulated black markets that lack safety oversight. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote **NO on SB 1548A**.

### **Key concerns include:**

#### **Existing safeguards already work.**

Oregon requires strict child-resistant packaging for all cannabis products. Mandating individual wrapping for edible products adds complexity without improving safety. In practice, consumers often remove excess packaging for convenience, which can actually increase accessibility rather than reduce it.

#### **Increased risk of accidental exposure.**

Research from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicates that once products are removed from outer child-proof packaging, individually wrapped items are more likely to be left loose in homes, vehicles, and bags—creating more potential access points for children. Plastic wrap is a poor child-proof option.

#### **Disproportionate impact on small businesses.**

Many licensed OLCC operators are already operating under significant regulatory and financial pressure. The additional packaging requirements proposed in SB 1548A would create costly operational changes that many small businesses simply cannot absorb. For some, this could mean closure.

#### **Job loss and reduced public revenue.**

Products affected by this bill represent an estimated 14–15% of the OLCC market. Reduced sales and business closures could result in meaningful job losses and an estimated \$5 million reduction in Measure 110 funding—resources communities across Oregon rely on.

#### **Strengthening the unregulated market.**

Higher costs and limited product availability in the legal market risk driving consumers toward unregulated sources, where products lack testing, accurate labeling, and child-resistant

protections—ultimately undermining public safety. Any 12-year-old with a computer can order from the black market on the internet and have it delivered directly to their front door. Again, this would further complicated and weaken our legal market while supporting & strengthening the attraction to illegal black market products.

**More effective alternatives exist.**

Education and safe-storage initiatives have proven successful in other states. Partnerships with poison control centers and public awareness campaigns can improve safety outcomes without placing additional burdens on compliant, regulated businesses.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this issue and for your continued work supporting Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

**Gary Bracelin**

Owner, Tokyo Starfish

Bend, Oregon

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