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Testimony of Jesse Sweet, Policy Analyst Oregon Liquor Control Commission Joint Committee on Measure 91 Implementation Senate Bill 844 Dash 2, 3 & 5 April 13, 2015

OLCC staff have analyzed the proposed dash two, three and five amendments to Senate Bill 844. DOJ's complete analysis on behalf of the OLCC is attached as Attachment A. To summarize, the OLCC's primary interest is in consistency of definitions and timing of local government responsibilities.

Both the dash two and dash three amendments use definitions that are inconsistent with existing definitions found elsewhere in Measure 91. Definitions were previously offered in response to the dash 1 amendments to Senate Bill 844. The dash two and three amendments create additional, independent definitions. If the committee desires to move forward with these amendments, OLCC and DOJ are prepared to work with the committee to harmonize definitions, especially with regards to extracts, products and edibles.

The dash five amendments require that the OLCC may not issue a license without a land use compatibility statement from the city or county where the license will be located. OLCC appreciates the committee's approach to the sensitive issues of land use and siting of marijuana businesses, and the agency is supportive of local governments having a clear role in the siting process. However, the OLCC suggests considering a time frame in which local governments will be required to produce land use compatibility statements. This will help ensure a timely and efficient application process. The OLCC's understanding is that land use compatibility statements are a commonly used tool and that they can typically be produced in a relatively short period of time.

The dash five amendments also directs local governments to include at least one zone for marijuana businesses in their comprehensive plans or zoning ordinances. The OLCC requests that committee consider requiring local governments to make this determination by January 4, 2016. Synchronizing the zoning determination with the OLCC's deadline to begin accepting license applications would provide greater clarity for applicants who may be making significant investments in their new business ventures.

The OLCC appreciates the opportunity to comment and is prepared to coordinate with committee staff and legislative council to address the issues of concern.