



May 4, 2015

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners**  
**Policy Position**  
**SB 844: Relating to Marijuana**

**Clackamas County opposes SB 844:** The Board of County Commissioners opposes SB 844 as currently written, which restricts the scope of time, place, and manner ordinances passed by counties; preempts local opt-out of any type of licensed medical marijuana business; and removes all limits on the amount of usable marijuana and marijuana products that a grower, caregiver, or patient can possess, among other things.

With the Dash-6 amendments, SB 844 would overturn the County's recently adopted time, place, and manner regulations for medical marijuana dispensaries, which were adopted in Clackamas County through collaborative input from dispensary operators, community representatives, and people involved in youth prevention efforts. We would also be precluded from adopting reasonable zoning regulations in our rural residential and resource zones.

One of the motivating factors for the County's time, place, and manner ordinance was to provide reasonable access to medication while limiting the potential proliferation of facilities in our commercial zones. For example, the current state-mandated 1,000 foot setback between facilities would allow 25 dispensaries along unincorporated McLoughlin Boulevard between Milwaukie and Gladstone – a distance of less than 6 miles.

SB 844 also raises serious concerns for Clackamas County residents who live in our 70,000 acres of rural residential land. We are hearing from many of these residents that they do not want to live next to concertina wire, floodlighting, and video surveillance. Without some ability to apply normal zoning restrictions on grow operations, the County will be unable to protect quality of life for affected residents through appropriate conditions of approval.

We need to be able to balance competing interests with respect to marijuana operations. These interests are best balanced at the local level. Clackamas County has no objections to reasonable sideboards on local regulations, but SB 844 goes too far in its current form.

We urge a “no” vote on SB 844, as currently written.

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.