



February 27, 2019

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
SB 639: Related to Marijuana Consumption and Sale at Temporary Events**

Clackamas County opposes SB 639: The Board of County Commissioners opposes SB 639 for its creation of cannabis lounges and endorsement to consume marijuana at “temporary events,” such as concerts, festivals, recreational and day-use facilities, and similar venues that require temporary venue permits. Though marijuana consumption is now legal in Oregon, Clackamas County prefers its use be kept away from venues that require transportation to and from the event and on properties that are generally designated for use by the public.

As a traffic safety concern, having cannabis lounges or events where marijuana is consumed runs counter to the county’s work to eliminate fatal and serious injury crashes. Driving while intoxicated is the leading cause of automotive related deaths. Endorsing events that promote the use of newly legalized intoxicants like marijuana will only increase those casualties. We believe there are safe places to consume marijuana and remain safe afterwards – temporary events fail to achieve that goal.

Likewise, sections of SB 639 conflict with the Indoor Clean Air Act, which protects all people from the health risks of secondhand smoke, including cannabis smoke and vapor. Cannabis smoke and vapor is not harmless; there is no safe exposure to either.

Additionally, the normalization of marijuana use by adults at lounges and events could continue to decrease youth perception of harm and potentially increase youth use of marijuana. According to the 2017-18 Oregon Student Wellness Survey, students’ perception of harm in trying and using marijuana has significantly decreased since 2012. Students who perceive marijuana use as less risky are more likely to engage in use.

We urge a “NO” vote on SB 639.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.