



ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: February 27, 2019
TO: Senate Committee on Business and General Government
RE: SB 639, relating to marijuana

Chair Riley and Members of the Committee:

Lane County cannot support SB 639. This measure proposes a number of expansions and access to recreational marijuana without recognition of the existing challenges that local governments regularly face under the current framework for recreational marijuana.

These include:

- Promotion by marijuana retailers that overtly appeal to youth. We envision this dynamic to only be exacerbated within the realm of the proposals contained in SB 639. Special event promotion and marijuana lounges will employ all manner of promotion to compete for customers and be noticed, just as the plethora of existing retailers do. We regularly note the presence of marketing tools that appeal to youth, and have little authority to address that issue.
- A taxation structure that is flawed. Counties are statutorily provided with the authority to provide mental health and public health frameworks in Oregon. Marijuana tax policy, however, provides little recognition of the new burdens that recreational marijuana availability and usage has created. The state taxation structure has already seen legislative policy that moved money away from county services and the local retail tax provides insignificant revenues for county mental health and public health services. SB 639 does not address how state or local taxes will be collected at special event or marijuana lounges, while clearly adding new burdens to public safety writ large.
- The presence of language that is inconsistent with Oregon's Indoor Clean Air Act concerns us and could open new efforts by the tobacco and vaping industries to further weaken this law. We cannot support proposals that create loopholes in that policy.

Finally, Lane County is regularly challenged by a state recreational marijuana policies which seek to expand access to marijuana products when these policies remain at odds with federal laws. This situation is treated differently depending on who occupies the Whitehouse, creating further inconsistencies. We believe that Oregon should temper new policies until the federal government and Congress is able to reform current drug laws.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY