

Date: 03/12/2019

To: The Honorable Chair Representative Lively, Vice Chair Representative Bonham, Vice-Chair Fahey and Members of the House Economic Development Committee

From: Andrea Nicole Almeida, Civilian

RE: Position statement on HB 2233 Relating to marijuana; prescribing an effective date

Chair Representative Lively, Vice Chair Representative Bonham, Vice-Chair Fahey and Members of the House Economic Development Committee:

My name is Andrea Almeida and I live in Portland, Oregon working in cannabis. I am sharing my personal testimony in support of HB 2233 which would permit social consumption. As a civilian who has experienced necessary positive health effects due to consuming cannabis in the privacy of my own space, I fully trust and support myself to consume in social settings. I'm here today to show Portland support to continue to receive the full healthy benefits of cannabis. Working as an Analyst, I heavily rely on pragmatic decision. I support HB 2233 because it will fuel economic growth for small businesses and all people in Oregon.

Based off of Oregon Secretary of State the top commodity is Greenhouse & Nursery. HB 2233 would allow consumers to purchase products that range in impact and preference. The freedom of choice will be evident in tax revenue dollars which collects based off of the price of the product. The more opportunity there is to responsibly consume cannabis, the more Oregon may allocate tax revenue dollars collected to support local communities, agriculture, education, and conservation. Oregon as a whole will benefit from HB 2233. HB 2233 will help balance the supply and demand by continuing to grow before stabilizing. I support HB 2233 and am seeking to help further legitimize the cannabis industry and create a community around responsible, legal consumption.

In 2014 Oregon voters affirmed Measure 91, the legalization of recreational use of cannabis followed by the legislature in 2015. Since then the cannabis industry has forged a space in the market-place, brought in millions of dollars of revenue, and worked with state government to ensure transparent, safe, and competitive business practices. Today we are asking the legislature to take the next logical step by passing HB 2233 which would permit social consumption sites. We will be active partners with government to ensure that this policy will work for everyone; cannabis producers, consumers and communities at large across Oregon. The benefits of social consumption extend to small businesses like mine, governments in the interest of further revenue, the tourism industry, and consumers that might not have anywhere else to legally consume.

I urge this committee to support the passage HB 2233 on behalf of civilians living in Oregon. Thank you for listening to my testimony and considering my request to pass HB 2233.