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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2018

Representative Pam Marsh  
900 Court St. NE, H-375  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Rep. Marsh:

In 1973, our state became the first state to decriminalize cannabis. Now, we are one of 10 states with fully legal state cannabis programs, and one of 33 states that have legalized medical cannabis. As we know, because cannabis is still a Schedule I drug federally, the majority of traditional banking institutions refuse to work with cannabis-related businesses. These businesses are often forced to operate as cash-only, while at the same time missing out on the traditional financial and lending opportunities available to other businesses. Not only is this bad for business, it is a public safety issue.

This week the House Financial Services Committee will mark up the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act, which would allow cannabis and cannabis-related businesses that are legal under state law to access financial services in the banking system and give law enforcement the ability to monitor these transactions. We expect this bill to move to the House floor for consideration during the 116th Congress.

While my top priority remains removing cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act, the best approach to reforming our nation's cannabis laws is to allow as many policy ideas to move forward through the legislative process.

I am encouraged by your legislation to allow banking institutions and credit unions to organize as limited charter cannabis financial institutions. In short order, I will introduce federal legislation that would create a safe harbor for intrastate cannabis banking options. I look forward to working with you to find solutions that work for Oregonians.

Courage,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Earl Blumenauer".

Earl Blumenauer  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS