



TO: House Committee on Rules
FR: Karynn Fish, Craft Cannabis Alliance
DA: June 4, 2019
RE: Support for SB 582 A

Chair Holvey and members of the committee:

My name is Karynn Fish and I am representing the Craft Cannabis Alliance, a business association for cannabis companies that are majority owned here in Oregon, and that are committed to a shared set of values including positive community engagement, ethical employment practices, and environmental sustainability. I join our members here today in urging your support for Senate Bill 582.

It's no secret that Oregon's cannabis industry is facing an economic crisis, with hundreds of millions of dollars in local capital, representing hundreds of businesses and thousands of jobs at risk. That local capital is primarily from small investors, farmers, entrepreneurs, their families and friends, much of it centered in rural and agricultural regions of the state. The crisis is the result of an "oversupply" problem that is really a market access problem; the inability of the world's best and most important cannabis producing region to access larger, legal and soon to be legal markets where Oregon's cannabis products would sell for a fair price.

Cannabis policy at the state and federal levels is changing rapidly. Illinois this week became the first state legislature to legalize sale for adult use, and the governors of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Mexico, and Vermont have all championed legalization in their states this year. Other states are discussing adult-use legalization, or starting or expanding medical programs.

Forcing each newly legal state to create fully contained production industries is environmentally and economically wasteful. Forbidding the transfer of cannabis from markets results in diversion from legal markets where there is oversupply, and drives patients and consumers into illicit markets where there are shortages.

The future of cannabis policy in the United States is safe, regulated, balanced markets, clean product, accurate labeling, and patient and consumer choice. But for that future to come to be, we must allow regulated cannabis to move from natural producer regions to meet demand elsewhere. That's what functioning markets do.

Oregon has a strong, vibrant, deeply rooted locally-owned craft cannabis industry. To ensure that it continues to thrive, we need to be ready to move product to new markets at the first opportunity. We therefore urge this committee to support SB 582, allowing the Executive Branch to authorize such transfers as soon as the federal government indicates that they will be allowed to move forward.

Thank you so much.

Karynn Fish
Craft Cannabis Alliance
info@craftcannabisalliance.org
(971) 264-9067