



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
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DATE: March 4, 2021
TO: House Committee on Revenue
RE: HB 2015, relating to local marijuana taxes

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

Lane County writes in support HB 2015 which would boost the allowable ceiling from 3% to 10% for locally ordained taxation of marijuana items in Oregon.

We believe that it is important to understand that county authority in the realm of marijuana taxation is limited to licensed retailers which are located outside of cities. Thus in Lane County this revenue is generated by only a handful of retailers. At the time the Board of Commissioners instituted the original 3% tax, there were only four or five retailers that we identified. The vast majority of Lane County licensed retailers are located within Eugene and Springfield, with others sprinkled throughout the other ten cities inside Lane County. For the current fiscal year, the 3% tax has generated \$122,678 to date (through March 3, 2021).

I bring this dynamic to the attention of the Committee because Lane County is the local public health authority and addresses a variety of marijuana prevention work including:

- Ensuring that youth are not overly exposed to marijuana marketing and packaging, particularly when they are at home. We continually ask that parents practice safe storage of these products as particularly ingestion by small children is highly dangerous.
- Working with cities to ensure indoor air quality policies address marijuana smoke as well tobacco smoke.
- Assisting local schools with development of substance use policies and enforcement methodologies.
- Given the amount of production in Lane County, we work to address environmental and ecological effects of cannabis growing.

Finally, County staff continually monitor and participate in the development of the Oregon Healthy Teen Data. Recognizing that marijuana began to be much more accessible in Oregon beginning in 2016, we see (mostly) year after year increases in the collected data related to youth impacts of marijuana. These data points we monitor include:

- Impaired driving (reported driving in a car or other vehicle within three hours of using marijuana).
- Past 30-day use and regular use of marijuana and how used (pipe, dab, vape, edible)
- Peer disapproval (declining)
- How old when first tried it

We would welcome additional revenue from marijuana sales and continue to have a need for additional revenue to support public health related service delivery.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER