



Testimony in Support of SB 755 – Implementing Measure 110

BerniePDX is a Multnomah County-based political organization upholding the types of progressive policies supported by Bernie Sanders. We endorse local and state political candidates and ballot measures. We enthusiastically supported Measure 110 in 2020.

Why? We believe the country's criminal justice system is broken; it is built on too many racist policies and keeps doing the same things that are not working. In the past decade there has been a lot of new thinking and understanding about what actually works, what the root causes of crime are, and how to promote a more just system and more public safety at the same time. Measure 110 is an example.

The voters of Oregon are setting an example of smart and fair sentencing by decriminalizing possession of personal amounts of drugs. If someone is addicted to any drug, it is a health problem, not a crime. If any person wants to address their problem, the state should have treatment available for them. Unfortunately, Oregon currently does not have enough treatment centers, and especially not in rural parts of the state.

Oregon voters called for both decriminalization and treatment. The legislature must make sure the funding is available to meet people's needs. And we have the money. Surplus marijuana taxes will provide funds and there will also be money freed up by the reduction in arrests, prosecutions, incarceration, and supervision. Pass SB 755. Everyone benefits.