### Oregon Cannabis and Hemp Update A Briefing for Oregon Legislators

Beau R. Whitney, Chief Economist Whitney Economics January 21, 2022

### **Global Cannabis Reform is Increasing**

- Cannabis is a global industry. The pace of reform is accelerating, driving increased international opportunities.
- Cannabis for industrial purposes is legal in over 65 countries as more governments see the value of cannabis from an economic development perspective.
- Current U.S. regulatory policies are a threat to U.S. global competitiveness.





### U.S. Market Update – Top Ten Markets

- U.S. 2021 Legal Revenues \$25 billion.
- U.S. 2025 Forecasted Legal Revenues \$44.9 billion.
- Market growth rates returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Top 10 Legal States - 2021 & 2025								
Rank	State	2021		Rank	State	2025		
1	California	\$4,985		1	California	\$9,093		
2	Colorado	\$2,019		2	Florida	\$4,786		
3	Illinois	\$1,779		3	New York	\$3,564		
4	Washington	\$1,695		4	Illinois	\$2,984		
5	Florida	\$1,617		5	Michigan	\$2,418		
6	Michigan	\$1,450		6	Arizona	\$2,407		
7	Arizona	\$1,415		7	Washington	\$2,037		
8	Oregon	\$1,117		8	Colorado	\$1,832		
9	Pennsylvania	\$974		9	New Jersey	\$1,733		
10	Massachusetts	\$953		10	Massachusetts	\$1,604		



# U.S. Market – (Over)/Under Supply

- States with potential legal over supply issue.
- Oklahoma an anomaly. Nevada supply supports tourists.
- California/Oregon excess supply is generally exported.
- Potential moratorium on license seems appropriate

Population (18+) to License Ratios						
State	Population / Retail License	Population / Cultivator				
Oklahoma	1,130	303				
Oregon	4,512	2,470				
Alaska	4,073	2,471				
Montana	1,944	2,871				
Colorado	4,313	3,641				
Maine	4,474	4,893				
Washington	12,178	5,403				
California	30,033	6,502				
Delaware	25,559	12,779				
Rhode Island	310,942	13,138				
Nevada	34,662	15,045				
Michigan	9,898	15,224				



Source: Whitney Economics

# U.S. Market – Cultivation Capacity

- A majority of legal cultivation capacity comes from adult-use markets.
- Approximately 75% of demand is satisfied through illicit channels.
- Percentage of illicit supply will decrease significantly through 2025.

State	Regulatory structure	Total Licenses	Retail Licenses	Cultivation	Processing	Laboratories
Oklahoma	M	13,771	2,519	9,402	1,713	28
California	Α	7,888	1,031	4,762	864	40
Oregon	Α	2,695	760	1,388	305	24
Colorado	Α	2,916	1062	1,258	528	20
Washington	Α	2,764	484	1,091	1,176	
Michigan	Α	1,587	849	552	121	15
Montana	M/A	921	415	281	220	5
Massachusetts	Α	851	363	269	205	14
Alaska	Α	436	145	239	48	4
Maine	Α	594	257	235	96	6
Nevada	A	396	79	182	118	17
United States		36,720	9,410	19,953	5,499	212

Source: Whitney Economics, State Cannabis Regulatory Agencies



### **Illicit to Legal Consumer Conversions**

- Oregon Illicit market estimated at \$300 million \$400 million
- Converting consumers away from the illicit market is a function of both price and access.
- Consumers prefer to purchase products legally and even pay a premium, as long as that premium is not too great.
- If the difference in price of products between illicit market and legal market is too great, consumers will reengage with the illicit market
- In states with high taxes, there is lower participation in the legal market
  - Oregon: 80% 85% legal participation
  - Washington: 70% 75% legal participation
  - California: 40%- 45% legal participation



# U.S. Market – Special Topic Industry Sentiment Survey

• Banking, taxation and competition (both legal and illicit) were the industry's greatest concerns.





U.S. Market – Special Topic Industry Sentiment Survey

- Most companies not making a profit.
- Industry looking tax fairness, whereas Congress is struggling with tax reform.





U.S. Market – Special Topic Industry Sentiment Survey

• Ancillary and retail most positive.

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• Cultivators more pessimistic. Nearly 30% of cultivator respondents voiced concerns.



# **Oregon Hemp**

- Oregon has fallen from being ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally in terms of licensed acres to 9<sup>th</sup> since 2019.
- If licenses are frozen (like was proposed in meetings recently), will this really address the cartel issues?
- What happens when eastern Oregon farmers want to plant hemp fiber as a rotation crop?
  - Will they be economically impacted when there are already so few farms today?
- Moratorium on licenses does NOT seem appropriate.

Rank	State	Licensed Acres 2019	Rank	State	Licensed Acres 2020	Rank	State	Licensed Acres 2021
1	Colorado	80,000	1	Colorado	62,187	1	New York	33,034
2	Oregon	64,142	2	Tennessee	51,000	2	Illinois	22,961
3	Kentucky	60,000	3	Arizona	34,035	3	Missouri	21,928
4	Montana	53,000	4	California	32,505	4	Colorado	21,082
5	Wisconsin	38,300	5	Kentucky	32,106	5	Florida	17,462
6	Tennessee	38,000	6	New York	30,411	6	Arizona	14,820
7	Michigan	25,000	7	Oregon	27,662	7	Kentucky	12,085
8	Oklahoma	21,635	8	Illinois	26,264	8	Virginia	9,736
9	North Carolina	14,400	9	Missouri	21,836	9	Oregon	7,339
10	Illinois	12,949	10	Florida	18,327	10	North Carolina	6,279



Source: Whitney Economics, State Cannabis Regulatory Agencies

# **Oregon Hemp Value Decline**

- Value of the Oregon hemp crop (Biomass only) has declined from \$5.5 billion to \$22 million since 2019.
- There were only 780 licenses in 2021 a decline of 61% since last year
- How is this driving so much illicit supply and cartel activities? This just does not add up?

Oregon	2	019		2021	Difference
Acres Licensed		64,142		7,339	-88.6%
Pounds per acre		2,000		2,000	
Capacity (Pounds)	128	3,284,000	14	,678,000	
CBD % used in Valuation		10		10	
Price per pound @10%	\$	42.90	\$	1.50	
Value of biomass capacity	\$ 5,503	3,383,600	\$22	2,017,000	-99.6%

*Source: Whitney Economics, Oregon Department of Agriculture, PanXchnage* 



### The Intersection Between Cannabis and Hemp

- Federal Regulators are not deploying comprehensive policies regarding hemp, thereby relying on state legislatures to fill the void
- Patchwork of rules at the state level creating challenges to conduct interstate commerce and grow the legal industry
- Law enforcement having difficulty differentiating legal versus illicit operations
- Federal intervention required, but will do little to impact illicit activities unless interstate commerce or de-scheduling takes place.
- Fear is new state laws could impact R&D for medical and other industrial applications

## Summary

- Industry taking a wait and see approach. Difficult to plan with so much uncertainty.
- The next 12 24 months will be tough to predict. If anything, expect incremental reform. Midterms will define pace of reform.
- Legal market growth will come from new markets, mature markets have peaked.
- States will continue to reform at a faster pace than feds, but may create distortions in the market.

## **About Whitney Economics**

#### Beau Whitney, Cannabis Operations and Supply Chain Expert

Beau Whitney is the founder and Chief Economist at Whitney Economics, a global leader in cannabis and hemp business consulting, data and economic research.

Serving an international clientele, Beau is considered one of the leading cannabis economists in the U.S. and globally. His applications of economic principles to create actionable operational and policy recommendations have been recognized by governments, and throughout the economic, investment, business communities.

Beau has provided policy recommendations at the state, national and international levels and is considered an authority on cannabis economics and the supply chain.





#### Beau R Whitney Whitney Economics <u>Beau@WhitneyEconomics.com</u> 503-724-3084







### The Impact of 280E: An Oregon Example

- Even with record sales and tax revenues, Oregon retailers are struggling.
  - Average Revenue per Oregon Retailer is \$1.4 million.
- Federal taxes, labor and inventory purchases make up the majority of costs, with little else left for health care, rent, compliance or other expenses.
- The average retailer in Oregon will pay nearly \$150,000 in federal business taxes and is roughly \$15k behind in state sale tax payments.

Oregon Cost Structure - A 280E example	Annual Numbers	Remainder	Comments
Retail Revenue	\$1,400,000		Based on Regulator report to legislature
Product Acquisition Costs	\$700,000	\$700,000	
Labor	\$461,000	\$239,000	
Federal Taxes	\$147,000	\$92,000	\$7,700 per month left after only Labor,
Remainder	\$92,000		Federal Taxes and Product costs
Rent	\$90,000	\$2,000	Average of \$6 - \$10/sq ft
Payroll Taxes (FICA)	\$70,994	(\$68,994)	
Health Care Insurance \$6972/employee	\$69,720	(\$138,714)	After labor, health care is first cut
Property Insurance	\$12,000	(\$150,714)	
Security	\$9,000	(\$159,714)	
Bank Account	\$6,000	(\$165,714)	Hold cash for taxes and get robbed
Regulatory License	\$ 5,000	(\$170,714)	Unavoidable - Some in Excess of \$2.M
All of these items are below the line			All of these items are below the line
State Business Taxes			
Marketing / Advertising			
Compliance Costs			
Administrative			
HR			
Net profit	\$0	Tax increases and 280	DE are putting retailers and suppliers out of busines

## **Cross Border Effect**



Percent change from July 2015 to September 2015 average to October 2015 to January 2016 average Source: www.502data.com, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis



- Consumers are price sensitive (elasticity > -2.0)
- Tax policy plays a large role in illicit to legal consumer conversions
- When Oregon flower came on line for rec users, Washington saw a steep drop off of demand
- Current tax rates: WA: 37% state + 9% local OR: 17% state + 3% local