



HB 2505 Allows local communities to raise marijuana taxes

House Revenue – Jody Wiser – 1.30.2023

We support this bill. For several years representatives serving Ontario and other eastside communities have asked for a marijuana tax increase to help deal with the heavy impact of Idaho residents shopping in their communities.

The fear that the effects of any tax increase will reach down to farmers and trimmers as well as retailers is misguided. The tax is likely to be raised only in eastern Oregon, and their market is largely folks who will drive to Oregon to buy legal marijuana. These consumers are unlikely to balk at an increase. There is no reason to believe that the cost would be borne by those who grow and prepare the products for sale.

We urge you to allow communities to raise marijuana taxes so they can afford to provide the services needed in their communities because of the sale of marijuana. This bill allows local voters to decide whether to impose a tax increase or not. If asked, we would support an amendment keeping at least 50% or even all of the increased tax funds in the local communities, not just the 20% in the bill.