

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

**Written Testimony of Rob Bovett
before the
Senate Judiciary Committee
in Support of Senate Bill 766 and Amendments**

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Senators Gelser Blouin, Linthicum, and Manning,

For the record I'm Rob Bovett. I won't repeat my background in drug policy, which I already covered in testimony related to Senate Bill 326.

Like Senate Bill 326, Senate Bill 766 is another key component of the legislative portion of the recommendations from the Task Force on Cannabis-Derived Intoxicants and Illegal Cannabis Production, better known simply as the HB 3000 / SB 1564 Task Force, on which I served as the Governor's appointee to represent counties, and served as the Chair of the Funding Subcommittee of the Task Force, from which this bill arose. I also currently serve as Vice-Chair of our Criminal Justice Commission, which is also directly relevant to this bill.

As the Committee is aware, illicit cannabis production by Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs), many international in scope, took off in Southern Oregon some years ago, causing much harm to our communities, the environment, water resources, and victims of labor trafficking and violence. Other witnesses may address those issues in their testimony on this bill. Suffice to say the problem has metastasized to other parts of Oregon.

The Task Force has concluded its work, issued a report, and submitted a number of bills this session as part of those recommendations. Attached to this testimony is a one-page update on the status of those bills.

The purpose of Senate Bill 766 is two-fold:

- (1) To conform the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant Program (IMMEGP) statute to make it work with the recommendations of the Task Force. This is the base bill as introduced.
- (2) To serve as a possible vehicle to deliver the Task Force recommendations related to funding to the Ways and Means Committee. This would need to be done by way of amendment, which is currently being drafted by Legislative Counsel to reflect the funding recommendations of the Task Force, which I have also summarized in the attached one-page summary.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 766 with the anticipated amendments - and the other HB 3000 Task Force bills listed in the attached summary - and pass SB 766 on to the Ways & Means Committee with a Do Pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

Rob Bovett
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Cannabis-Derived Intoxicants and Illegal Cannabis Production Task Force
(aka HB 3000 / SB 1564 Task Force)

2023 Oregon Legislation

Senate Bill 326

(Law Enforcement and Water Subcommittees)

- * Cleanup and nuisance abatement
- * Water use prohibition
- * Mobile tracking devices, pen registers and wires
- * Enhanced penalties for aggravated DTO grows

Status: - Had hearing in Senate Judiciary on February 2; LC is currently processing amendments

Senate Bill 766 (same as House Bill 3048)

(Funding Subcommittee)

- * Conforms IMMEGP statute to current practice plus TF recommendations

Status: Being heard by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 22 at 1:00 PM. LC is currently processing amendments to add in the Funding Subcommittee recommendations:

- \$40M - IMMEGP enforcement grants through CJC (all 3 combined CSL + new)
- \$6M - IMMEGP victim services grants through CJC (CSL)
- \$5M - IMMEGP state police grants through CJC (new)
- \$5M - ODWRD for watermasters (CSL)
- \$750K - ODOJ resource prosecutors for labor trafficking (new)

NOTE: The CJC budget bill, Senate Bill 5505, has the baseline IMMEGP budget built in, so \$6M of the \$40M listed above in the first line is already covered. The additional IMMEGP need is therefore \$45M

House Bill 2225 § 3

(Oregon Judicial Department)

- * Search warrant statute cleanup

Status: Passed House Judiciary unanimously on February 15, 2023; now in Ways & Means

Senate Bill 954

(Law Enforcement Subcommittee)

- * The rest of the search warrant statute cleanup

Status: Just introduced

House Bill 2931

(Cannabinoids Subcommittee)

- * Reference lab

Status: Amendments being worked on

House Bill 3049

(Cannabinoids Subcommittee)

- * Registration of hemp products

Status: Amendments being worked on