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Chair Bynum
900 Court St. NE, H-276
Salem, Oregon 9730145

Dear Chair Bynum and the Honorable Members of the House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business,

As an Oregon resident active community member, participant, and owner in the cannabis industry, I Nicole Kennedy owner of Green Muse Cannabis (formerly Green Hop, The First Hip Hop Dispensary) am writing to ask you all to support the Oregon Economic Equity Investment Act, or HB 3431. It is important for you all to support this bill because as a Portland native; like so many others, I have been directly impacted by the war on drugs and this bill offers a chance for Oregon to recognize the detrimental impact the criminal justice system has had on my community. My roots run deep in this community not only as the owner of Oregon's first black owned cannabis dispensary but also as a descendant of Vanport flood survivors and those impacted by Portland's 1971 eminent domain. Therefore, Economic Justice and equity are important.

The Economic Equity Investment Program (EEIP), created in 2022, directed Business Oregon to provide one-time funding to community-based organizations with solutions that build generational wealth for communities experiencing multiple economic risk factors. [HB 3431](#) asks the legislature to make ongoing, holistic investments with cannabis taxes to achieve positive change in the intersecting inequities of poverty and substance abuse.

Black people were arrested at 4 times the rate of their White counterparts in Oregon for cannabis possession despite usage being equal across races. The criminal justice system stripped wealth from Black families with documented targeting of Black communities like draconian War on Drugs laws.

Oregon faces an imperative to address economic justice with the legalization of cannabis. Closing the wealth gap is a root cause solution to pressing concerns facing Oregon. The



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communities at the bottom of the wealth gap are the same communities experiencing the highest substance abuse mortality rates.

Considering all of the impacts the above stated has had on my community I as again that you support HB 3431 to allow my community an opportunity to rebuild from all the injustice we have suffered for decades.

Best regards,

Nicole Kennedy

CEO, Green Muse



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