



March 22, 2023

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Sosa & Elmer, and Member of the House Committee on Business and Labor:

On behalf of the Oregon Cannabis Association (OCA), which was founded in 2014, and remains the oldest and most well connected cannabis association in Oregon, I am happy to share OCA's support for HB 2515 with the -2 amendment. This legislation includes several provisions that are vitally important for supporting cannabis businesses in a very critical time for our industry.

In addition to revising and removing several regulatory burdens that have been experienced by cannabis businesses in Oregon, HB 2515-2 builds on the legislature's previous work with the cannabis licensee moratorium by establishing licensee ratios to Oregon's 21+ population upon the moratorium's expiration. This change aligns with how Oregon issues licenses for retail liquor stores, and also recognizes that very challenging citation the cannabis industry is in.

With the lack of a federal regulatory framework to permit exporting marijuana cultivated in Oregon, our industry has experienced plummeting prices of products and thus significant declines in revenue for our members. This decline in revenue is further compound with not being able to take advantage of many of the federal tax breaks that exist for small businesses solely because our member's businesses are associated with cannabis. This is in addition to many other regulatory and policy changes that our industry faces, which is why now is exactly the right time for the Oregon Legislature to pass HB 2515, with the -2 amendment.

Passage of HB 2515, with the -2 amendment, is a vital first step, and I look forward to working with the Legislature throughout the rest of session and during the interim to highlight additional next steps that must be taken to help ensure that Oregon can support the cannabis industry in ways that recognize the industry a critically important component of our state's economic development strategy.

Sincerely,

Amy Margolis
Executive Director