



June 22, 2016

The Honorable Peter Courtney
President, Oregon Senate

The Honorable Tina Kotek
Speaker, Oregon House of Representatives

Dear President Courtney and Speaker Kotek:

We are writing to urge you to commit to maintaining the Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization in its current form for the foreseeable future.

Following the passage of Measure 91, the Legislature was tasked with building a framework for a legalized marijuana market in Oregon. The creation of the Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization provided us with the most effective means for carrying out this duty. Through this committee the Legislature took positive steps toward providing a safe regulatory environment for recreational marijuana, began to address the future of our state's medical marijuana program, and established rules for the cultivation, production and sale of cannabis products in Oregon.

In many respects, the joint committee was a rare bright spot in the midst of two difficult legislative sessions. Republicans and Democrats invested hours listening to public testimony, learning from experts, and forging policy compromises with the best interests of Oregonians at heart. Together, we successfully built a foundation for a new sector of our economy and developed an in-depth understanding of one of the most unique industries in our state.

The Legislature has made significant progress on this matter, but there is still so much work to be done. We are only just beginning to understand how the introduction of legalized recreational marijuana will fit with our overall economy, there are outstanding questions related to our medical marijuana program, and there will inevitably be a multitude of policy adjustments that will need to be made over the next several years.

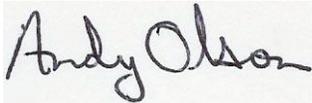
These are issues best handled by a specialized committee that understands the unique nature of the marijuana industry and a group of legislators that has spent the last two years building meaningful relationships with activists, key stakeholders, and community governments. Further, dissolving or suspending the joint committee would result in complex and unique policy discussions being spread across a wide range of committees that would not necessarily have the same level of insight and expertise that the joint committee currently has.

To put it simply, our job is not yet finished. As part of the Legislature's long term commitment to developing and maintaining a safe and functional marijuana economy, we urge you to maintain the Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization in its current form and allow us to continue studying this issue and developing bipartisan policies that best fit the needs of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carl Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Carl Wilson
Co-Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization
State Representative, District 3

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Olson". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Andy Olson
Member, Joint Committee on Marijuana Legalization
State Representative, District 15