

17 September 2018

To our Duly Elected Public Officials,

My name is Jeremy Robbins and I use medical cannabis because I broke my neck in a bicycling accident nearly 20 years ago. I am paralysed and have severe spasms and chronic pain, but I do not take any narcotics to mitigate my symptoms: I eat cannabis oil and smoke concentrates instead.

I have always had support from my doctors, have been a legal cardholder for almost 17 years and I have found a protocol that works for me using cannabis. I have a profound disability, but it is the draconian laws of cannabis that keep me handicapped.

I have never been in any sort of legal trouble with cannabis (or anything else for that matter) but I feel like a criminal in my own home and I have no place for Public Consumption. This is because I live in Public Housing and due to the nature of funding I could be evicted for using my state and physician approved medicine.

I strongly believe we need spaces for people to legally consume cannabis. I have used public consumption in Amsterdam, Holland and Vancouver BC, in the East Bay of Oakland and Berkley as well as San Francisco. Legal spaces for cannabis consumption in Humboldt county, California and in Olympia and Seattle Washington, and lastly in Portland before the laws changed. We need this in Oregon and we need this now.

Places for safe, legal consumption not only would solve this issue for many in similar living conditions (like low-income public funded apartments) but they would also serve as a community hub for those needing this accommodation. Build it and they will come!

People living in low income residences and people with disabilities need social consumption space because they often struggle to get out into the community. This would incentivise and positively impact leaving home and exploring the neighboring city. Making connections with others of similar interests and abilities vastly improves the quality of lives for people and especially those with disabilities and this has the potential to serve as a hub.

As a person who uses a wheelchair for mobility, having access is another huge issue for places of consumption. I need to be able to move around and get into the restroom with relative ease. You would think in our world with ADA laws this would not be an issue but I have to fight for accessibility every day.

Most bars and pubs do not have this sort of access and it can be challenging to navigate them, and so a dedicated and thought out place of consumption is preferred- newer buildings have the

best access and so the hope is to find a space in one of the plethora of current building projects in Portland. This could really benefit the city on so many levels if they would begin the process of rulemaking around legal, safe and accessible social consumption.

In closing, I want to reiterate my support for spaces for cannabis consumption in Oregon that can benefit many that are stuck in a legal conundrum not being able to consume in a Federally funded apartment or due to the Clean Air Act, and act as a community hub and destination for marginalized communities. Please consider my story as you think about rulemaking.

Sincerely yours,

Jeremy John Robbins