

## Press Statement

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### AUDIENCE: Media

**Communication:** Lawsuit filed against Governor Kotek, Attorney General Rayfield and Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission Chair Doherty and Director Prins, seeking to stop enforcement of Oregon's United Cannabis Worker Act (Ballot Measure 119) because the requirement that cannabis businesses enter into "labor peace" agreements with unions in order to be licensed, is unconstitutional and will irreparably harm business, employees and families.

**TIMING:** 2/12/25

Today, Oregon cannabis businesses Bubble's Hash and Ascend Dispensary filed a lawsuit against Governor Tina Kotek, Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield, and the Chair and Executive Director of the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission Dennis Doherty and Craig Prins respectively, in their official capacities, seeking an injunction to stop enforcement of Measure 119 because it requires Oregon cannabis businesses to enter into neutrality agreements with Unions in order to obtain or maintain their licenses and in fact goes further because it requires those businesses, as a condition of licensure, to affirmatively support a union's efforts to organize.

The Plaintiffs allege that Measure 119 violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, Article I of the Constitution which prohibits states from passing any law impairing the obligations of contracts. They further claim that Measure 119 is pre-empted by the federal National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), consistent with Article VI of the Constitution, which designates it and the Laws of the United States as the supreme Law of the Land.

The Plaintiffs value and respect their hard-working teams. They are not anti-union, but rather they are pro employee. Measure 119 denies employees the right to decide for themselves whether or not to join a union and is inconsistent with the NLRA which provides employees with the right not to engage in any union activity. The NLRA also grants employers the ability to speak freely to employees about the pros and cons of unionization as long as they do not threaten, interrogate or make promises to employees in exchange for an employee's vote against unionization or otherwise not supporting the union.

If enforced, Measure 119 could deny licenses to those cannabis businesses that fail to follow the law and would irreparably harm those businesses and their employees, many of whom rely on their employer for their family's income and benefits, including health care. Measure 119 is anti-employer, anti-employee and anti-family.

- For Further Information Please Contact:

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