



Clean & Safe District

March 6, 2013

The Honorable Margaret Doherty
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2702

Dear Chair Doherty

The Clean & Safe District includes more than 3,000 businesses in downtown Portland. Our mission is to promote a clean, safe and vibrant environment for downtown employers, residents and visitors. Each year property owners and managers in the district spend \$4.5 million to enhance cleaning and safety services in the downtown.

The Clean & Safe Board of directors would like to express support for HB 2702. A major challenge facing downtown is maintaining the safety and attractiveness of downtown is the issue of problem drinking. Downtown Portland is the site of more than 50 percent of arrests for drinking in public and 25 percent of calls for detoxification services citywide.

To address this issue, the district has worked with the city of Portland, businesses and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission in an effort to establish an Alcohol Impact Area. We believe such a designation would provide a significant benefit to our efforts to address problem drinking issues.

Street drinking downtown is often associated with other offenses; police report many of the nuisance and livability crimes committed downtown, aggressive panhandling, shoplifting, offensive littering, disorderly conduct, public urination and assault, are committed while individuals are under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

While we understand that some businesses have concerns that products that are not traditionally abused by problem drinkers may inadvertently be restricted under an alcohol impact area designation. The Clean & Safe District stands ready to work with OLCC, the city of Portland and effected businesses to craft the best possible framework for addressing these issues.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Dave Hamilton
Chair, Clean & Safe District

