
SB 5403 WCLA Testimony

1 message

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To: greg@cannabis.observer

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Good morning Madam Chair, members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Trent Matson. Here today representing the Washington Cannabis Licensee Association. WCLA is the largest association of only 1502 license holders in Washington, our membership is composed of small and medium sized retailers, growers, and processors, including social equity license holders.

We are here today to Oppose SB 5403.

SB 5403 would negate the intent of Initiative 502 and create vertical integration in Washington state. We have seen the vertical integration model play out in other states and the results have been pricing pressure, consolidation, and instability. Conversely, Washington continues to be one of the only States in the country with profitable businesses, and a rich and diverse consumer experience.

WCLA concludes SB 5403 benefits only some growers based upon their location and zoning, while putting additional pressures on small and medium retailers.

SB 5403 would create instability in the cannabis market and Market Stability is a core value of WCLA and is critical when crafting new policy.

We feel it's best to maintain current market conditions in Washington for the benefit of both small retailers and small growers. Simply put, if you own a retail store you cannot own a grow and vice versa.

We know the Prime sponsor and cosponsors are well intended. But, we feel SB 5403 does not accomplish in practice what it intends on paper.

For those reasons WCLA is Opposed to SB 5403 but we look forward to working closely with you on cannabis issues moving forward.