

Testimony of Karen Sprague
CO2 Company

Co-Chairs Burdick and Lininger, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here and speak today.

I appreciate that you are looking to reach out to the community to formulate the rules and regulations that will affect us collectively.

My name is Karen Sprague. I am a southern Oregon resident. We launched an extraction company that provides medicine to patients and dispensaries. I have been an Oregon resident for 24 years. I am a patient and grower of the OMMP program since 2006. I grow for myself and a couple other patients.

I started working with the patient and their needs experimenting with lotions, salves, edibles, and concentrates. The community began to reach out looking for more products. I started connecting with other patients and donating more medicine to the community from my backyard.

Then we had ill patients move to Oregon looking for alternative forms of medicine. I began to donate flower to produce concentrates for patients who wanted to experiment with treating cancer.

I continued to educate myself after the positive responses. I began to look into the cleanest form of concentrating medicine that would help people. The more I began to research, the more I wanted to learn. I felt like I was truly helping people. I desired clean medicine for patients with compromised immune systems, which is how I began working with CO2 extractors.

The science part is truly exciting. We are on the forefront of pushing the industry forward connecting with patients, growers, and labs.

We concentrate different strains depending on their genetic makeup. Our THC line has more psychoactive compounds while the CBD dominant line has more medical healing properties without producing the euphoric high.

Our objective is to provide patients with various medical needs.

I have a request and I would like to explain to how this will help our business. The trim should be categorized as unusable until it is removed as a medicine from the machine. 450 grams of cannabis is concentrated to approximately 40 grams of medicine. We have three options to obtain the amount of trim we need to sustain our business while staying compliant: stack cards, closed loop dispensary, or a close relationship with a dispensary.

I would to walk you through our process: Either we produce the organic outdoor medicine or we contract with other local farmers.

From there, we take excess plant material from trimming the raw cannabis flowers into buds. The excess plant material is processed in the machine to produce raw oil.

The supercritical CO2 extractor uses high pressure and temperatures to extract the medicine. The machine has built-in safety mechanisms to prevent an accident with the high pressure system. It will actually shut itself down internally if its signals the built-in parameters. Furthermore, we have hired safety consultants to help install SOPS for a safe workplace.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you again and your willingness to craft a system that works for the farmers and patients in Oregon.